

# THE COSTCO CONNECTION



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For Online Edition details, see page 3

A lifestyle magazine  
for Costco members

## Direct hit

With *The Da Vinci Code*, director  
Ron Howard continues his long  
run of movie magic **20**

December 2006 • Volume 21 • No. 12

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FRANCE FREEMAN



# This month online

The *Online Edition*, found at [costco.com](http://costco.com) (click on "Costco magazine"), contains the complete contents of the print edition plus these bonus articles.



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES HOME ENTERTAINMENT

## More Ron Howard

Our cover subject put in 25 years as an actor before turning director. He talks about the big breaks that would prepare him for his double-edged career in show business. *Exclusive to the Online Edition*

## Bonus Dialogue

More letters from readers

## Business feature: Boss bashing

Honesty is a great policy for improving companies. *From the U.S. edition archive*

## Book Look

News in the publishing world, book giveaways and warehouse book signings. *Exclusive to the Online Edition*

## Bon Appétit

A classic celery and spinach soup recipe that transcends seasons. *From the Canadian edition archive*

## More Buying Smart

Harry and David shares a rundown of what goes into the various gift baskets and tosses in a few choice recipes. *Exclusive to the Online Edition*



IRIDIO PHOTOGRAPHY



**NEW IN "RESOURCES"**  
The fifth installment in the popular Costco cookbook series, *Cooking in Style The Costco Way*, is here, complete and cross-referenced. Bookmark this location today and come back often.

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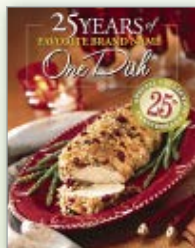
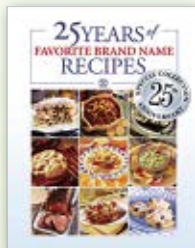
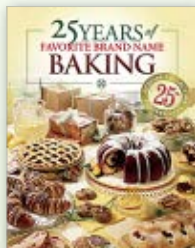


COURTESY DILLON WORKS!

Dillon Works!  
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# NEW BESTSELLERS,

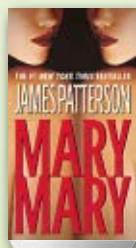
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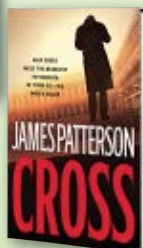
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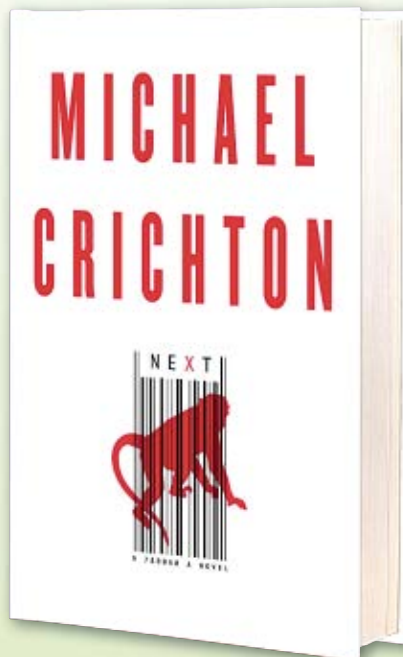
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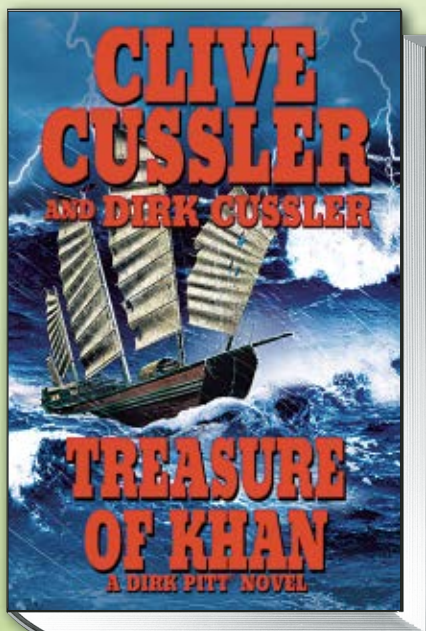
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HARPERCOLLINS / HARDCOVER

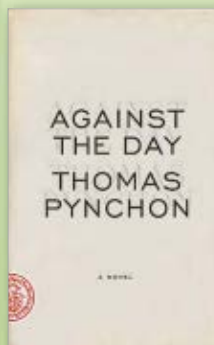
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Readers, beware! In **Against the Day**, a worldwide disaster is looming just a few years ahead. As an era of uncertainty comes crashing down between the time of the Chicago's World Fair and the years following World War I, folks try to keep pursuing their lives. In some cases, their lives pursue them.

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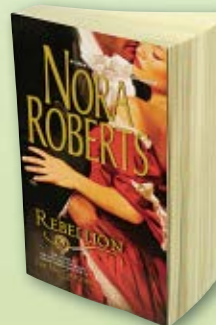
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Dirk Pitt is at it again. This time, he's faced with a modern-day Mongol who dreams of restoring national power and pride during his quest for the famous treasure of Genghis and Kublai Khan. In **Treasure of Khan**, Clive Cussler takes an extraordinary leap with one of his most remarkable villains ever.

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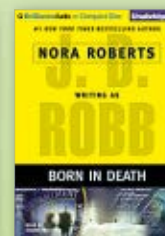
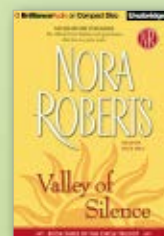


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## from the publisher's desk

Ginnie Roeglin

YOU PROBABLY DON'T need to be reminded that Christmas and Hanukkah are just days away. But, if you're still searching for the perfect gifts for everyone on your list, you'll find lots of great ideas in this issue, in our warehouses and on [costco.com](http://costco.com).

Electronics are hotter than ever this holiday season. Our tech expert, Marc Saltzman, offers great advice on two of the latest technologies on page 15. Wide-screen monitors, like the new wide-screen TVs, offer a larger format and better resolution, all in less desktop space.

These new monitors make it easier to work on documents and spreadsheets, and are also great for surfing the Web, downloading music and video, playing games and editing photos.

MP3 players, including iPods, and their accessories are also hot gifts for adults and kids this year. Be sure to read Marc's tips for extending the battery life of these devices.

DVDs are always great gift ideas. Movie buffs will enjoy classic collections on DVD (page 28), from Sylvester Stallone's *Rocky* to Shirley Temple, the entertaining *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* or the latest comedy release, *The Devil Wears Prada* (page 33). Costco also offers a wonderful variety of TV-show collections.

Still not sure what to get? Gift baskets are always a great option. As Pat Volchok explains on page 68, Costco has teamed with Harry and David to design a variety of gorgeous, gourmet gift baskets. We also offer an additional selection of gift baskets and gourmet items on [costco.com](http://costco.com) that can be ordered in bulk for direct delivery. You'll find additional gift suggestions from [costco.com](http://costco.com), including one-of-a-kind jewelry, digital cameras and GPS systems, bikes, golf clubs, furniture, wine cellars and accessories, and more, starting on page 52.

How about a gift that teaches your children how to invest and save at the same time? If you open a ShareBuilder account this month, you'll receive a Costco Cash card after your first trade. Learn more about this great program on page 51.

Last but not least, don't forget the Champagne for New Year's Eve! Our wine buyer, Annette Alvarez-Peters, takes you on a tour of France's Champagne makers on page 44, with visits to Dom Pérignon, Veuve Clicquot, our own Kirkland Signature™ Champagne and others.

From our warehouses to your house, happy holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Costco! ☐



Ginnie Roeglin is Senior Vice President, E-Commerce and Publishing, and Publisher of *The Costco Connection*.



David W. Fuller is Assistant Vice President, Publishing, and Editor of *The Costco Connection*.

## from the editor's desk

David W. Fuller

IT MIGHT BE EASY to dismiss the accomplishments of someone who followed in his parents' footsteps, who from infancy was surrounded by people in a position to further his career and who found fame at the age of 8.

Why, then, does it seem so hard to dismiss the achievements of Ron Howard, the subject of this month's cover story?

I think the answer comes in two parts: work ethic and integrity.

Lacking either of those character traits, someone born with advantages, fortunate in his or her connections or blessed with early success, can easily go astray. Howard's story is instructive: Although he could have moved forward as an actor, he took the time and spent the energy to attend film school to learn the craft of directing. Over the years, he worked in his craft from a low-budget beginning to the critical heights of such sophisticated films as *A Beautiful Mind* and *Cinderella Man* and the popular success of *Backdraft* and *Apollo 13*.

Each step of the way, what has been clear is his growth as an artist, the kind of growth that only comes from diligence and perseverance.

A quick glance at Howard's directing credits will remind those familiar with his work that he has always taken great care in creating each of his films. His movies speak for themselves, being neither one-dimensional nor anything less than heartfelt. His stamp is there. His integrity shines through onto the screen.

There is no dismissing Ron Howard. ☐



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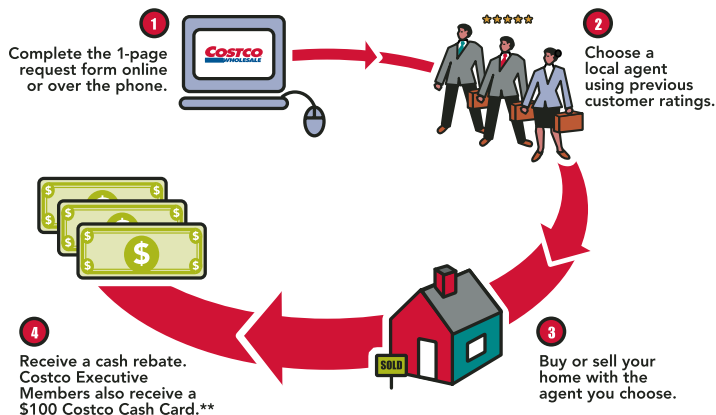


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## Debate goes on

**In response to the November Debate, "Should airport security procedures include ethnic and religious profiling?"**

**YES.** It is just common sense. I am not advocating the suspension of civil rights, but I think the increased safety of the majority, even at the possible inconvenience and embarrassment of a few, is necessary.

*Arthur Bernstein  
Massapequa Park, New York*

## Have something to say?

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to our editors on any topic or issue covered in *The Connection*. Please include your full name and phone number or address. Send all letters to: Dialogue, *The Costco Connection*, P.O. Box 34088, Seattle, WA 98124-1088; fax to (425) 313-6718; or e-mail to [dialogue@costco.com](mailto:dialogue@costco.com). The editors reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

## All mompreneurs

Are you a working mom who is running a home-based business so you can spend more time with your family? Perhaps your business idea came to you from an experience or revelation you had raising your children. If you started your own business after you became a mom, we'd love to hear from you.

Please write to us with information about your business at: Mompreneurs, *The Costco Connection*, P.O. Box 34088, Seattle, WA 98124-1088; by fax to (425) 313-6718; or by e-mail to [sponder@costco.com](mailto:sponder@costco.com).



**NO.** Did everyone suddenly forget that the second most heinous terrorist act in the country, the Oklahoma City bombing, was committed by two white males?

*Lance McDowell, Tacoma, Washington*

**YES.** It's unfortunate that it has come down to this, but people of certain ethnic and religious backgrounds have a much higher probability to commit terrorist acts against the U.S. at this time. Anyone acting suspiciously also has to be checked.

*Bruce Shimizu, Kaneohe, Hawaii*

**NO.** I don't think airport security personnel should target only young Arab men.

*Diane Yankelevitz, Bozeman, Montana*

## Debater challenged

I was shocked to see Daniel Pipes' picture and to read his venom-filled comments in *The Costco Connection* magazine. Pipes' mission in life is to speak and write against Muslims. His comments do not belong in a corporate magazine such as *The Costco Connection*.

*B. Bhombal, Monrovia, California*

*In selecting contributors for the "Yes" and "No" arguments of our monthly Debate section, we seek responsible commentators we believe can clearly express each side of the debate. These commentators have included sitting and former presidents of the United States, think-tank experts, heads of major non-governmental organizations, journalists and others who have track records in taking part in public discourse. We feel that Daniel Pipes, although clearly controversial, has the credentials to be included in this group. In no way does our selection of a Debate contributor indicate an endorsement of that contributor's opinion, something that simply would not make sense since we select both a "Yes" and a "No" on each Debate topic.—Ed.*

## Odds and ends

### More than integrity

I totally agree with the article "Following a Moral Compass" [October 2006 issue]. As a small-business owner I am always researching ways to support the people who work with me. The article talks about treating employees with integrity. I would love to see a follow-up article that covers how a small company can move from independent contractors to employees and then to providing health insurance and paid parental leave. I want to do right, but it is all overwhelming!

*Erica Matteson, Portland, Oregon*

### The doctor fights back

I fail to see why David Horowitz complains about doctors' fees for services that

might have been free in the past. Our overhead costs rise annually while insurance companies and Medicare have cut what we get paid by not raising fees over the last five years. Medical insurance generally pays for office/hospital visits, and that's it. You can't get free service by phone or e-mail from a lawyer or accountant, so why does he think you should get free services from a doctor? If patients want non-visit care, they can either pay each time or, in some practices, enter a retainer agreement where these services are provided for a monthly fee.

*Dr. Roy L. Bishop, Durham, California*

## Country wisdom

I love Costco and I love seeing Costco expand, but when I read the cover story of the October 2006 issue of *The Connection*, I found Taiwan listed as a country along with profiles of countries in which Costco operates. That's really confusing, because only a few countries in the world officially consider Taiwan an independent country, even though it has its own government, army and passport.

I would refer to it as Taiwan, China, or perhaps list Taiwan under a territory category. As of today, neither the United States nor the United Nations considers Taiwan a country. These Web sites offer more information: <http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>; [www.un.org/Overview/unmember.html](http://www.un.org/Overview/unmember.html).

*Frank Lew, Williamsburg, Virginia*

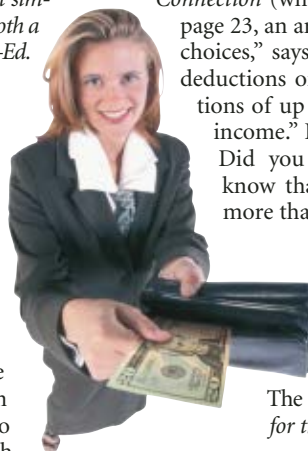
## Charitable giving revisited

In the November issue of *The Costco Connection* (which I love to read), on page 23, an article titled "Charitable choices," says, "The IRS allows tax deductions on charitable contributions of up to 5 percent of pretax income." I believe this is a typo. Did you mean 50 percent? I know that the IRS allows way more than 5 percent.

*Georganne Copas,  
Salinas, California*

*You're correct; the figure in the story should have read "50 percent."*

*The Connection apologizes for the typo.—Ed.*



**ONLINE BONUS!** You can read more Debate responses and letters from members in the *Online Edition*. Go to [costco.com](http://costco.com) and click on "Costco Magazine."

## Odds and ends

### Cover appeal

In your message ["From the Editor's Desk"] in November you said you wanted to "honor those workers who, instead, find fulfillment in their daily tasks." Please do so for the people who designed the cover of this month's *Costco Connection*. It is a masterpiece! Take time to admire it. A snow-covered community on Christmas Eve. Santa's sled (a computer mouse) [flying] beneath the full moon. The caption reads, "Not a creature is stirring except for your mouse." Beneath the sled, it reads, "Costco.com dashes into the holiday season." What a great parody!

Please pass my congratulations to those workers who created it. I repeat, it is a masterpiece!

**Barrie E. Parrish**  
Kirkland, Washington

### Healthy savings

I have been taking Kirkland Signature® vitamins for many years and have enjoyed good health as a result. Recently I decided to start taking [a combination of] glucosamine and chondroitin. The cost of that particular product was very high, so I checked Costco and found the Kirkland Signature brand. In a rating of products, Costco was up there among the best of the best, and the price of the Kirkland Signature version was much less than other brands, with the quality better than some of the more expensive brands. Bravo, Costco.

Since I have been taking Kirkland Signature glucosamine and chondroitin, my arthritis has been under control. It took a few weeks, but there is a real difference.

**Irene Bartley**  
Boynton Beach, Florida

### Planning ahead

Two reasons come to mind why Suze Orman's November response [about prepaying burial costs] is not a good one:

1. I believe it will be far less expensive to purchase coverage when as young as possible, making a one-time payment in full. Check the cost for various ages and [compare that to] saving an equal amount at current interest rates. Prepaying will be less expensive in almost every case.

2. Numbers aside, more important is not having to burden children, grandchildren or

other loved ones with the numerous details of your burial.

My wife and I carry prepayment cards, as do our children, on our behalf. Dealing with a reputable worldwide funeral service, it will take only one phone call to set the entire burial procedure in motion. This is considerably more important to us than saving perhaps \$1,000 over 20 years or so.

**Herbert M. Rosenthal**  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

### Postgraduate studies

My husband and I have a longstanding college rivalry. He is a graduate of University of Notre Dame and my alma mater is Georgetown University.

One morning, after one of my twice-weekly trips to our local Costco warehouse, my 3½-year-old son was singing the Notre Dame fight song in the kitchen. It suddenly dawned on me that I had better start promoting my alma mater. I got down on my knees and looked my son in the eyes and said, "Yes, honey, Daddy went to Notre Dame, but do you know where Mommy went to college?"

As I swelled with Georgetown pride, he lowered his eyes and thought for a moment. You can imagine my surprise when he looked up at me and answered a bit tentatively, "Costco?"

**Paula Greeley**  
Avon-by-the-Sea,  
New Jersey

### Dog-gone good

We have two Boston terriers, ages 4 and 6, that are pretty finicky eaters. I was browsing through *The Costco Connection*, saw the article on Kirkland Signature dog food and decided to give it a try. I was amazed! Both dogs licked their plates clean. I actually had to give them a little more. It's the first time either had eaten all their food; they normally eat,

then go back to the food or not. Now they are really enjoying their food, in fact are wolfing it down, something they have not done before.

I just wanted to let you know that I am making huge savings by switching from [boutique brand], but money was never the issue. My Bostons love your Kirkland Signature premium small dog food.

**Jill and Mick Douglass**  
St. George, Utah

### Knee versus elbow?

I would just like to point out that the November 2006 ad for Kirkland Signature Glucosamine/Chondroitin depicts a picture of what I think is an elbow joint when the ad states, "Give your knees a break."

**Gerardo M. General, M.D.**  
Chino, California

*That ad resulted in more free medical advice than we usually receive. All the physicians who pointed out this mistake are correct. The manufacturer concedes that there was a mix-up in art selection by their advertising agency.—Ed.*





# Bashing the boss

## Honest evaluations help company's drive to improvement



ARTVILLE/ART GLAZER

By Harvey Meyer

All eyes are on Tom Niccum, who is being evaluated by Lancel Software Development employees in an unusual, out-in-the-open performance review. While the workers don't relish putting their boss on the hot seat, they pull no punches in critiquing the affable Niccum, president of the 6-year-old Eagan, Minnesota, firm.

"Tom seems to be a JIT [just-in-time] organizer," one employee complains. "Problems are not headed off by careful planning and strategy. Instead, problems or issues are resolved as they arise."

Ouch!

To his credit, Niccum, who shoulders most of the company's sales and marketing duties, doesn't shrink from the charge, which is displayed on a projection screen for all to see. "As far as being a just-in-time organizer," he says matter-of-factly, "that's a fair characterization and something I'm working on changing."

You've just been offered a taste of Niccum's annual review, part of an approach called 360-degree evaluation. While not all of the company's 17 employees could attend the hour-long session, conducted around an elongated conference table, those who are present appreciate Niccum's willingness to accept both blame and bouquets.

"Sometimes employees think Tom is in dreamland because he's always optimistic, but in actuality that attitude is deliberate and helps us get through the tough times," says Susan Bjork, human resources manager at Lancel, a Costco member company. "He's more communicative than he's been, so employees are getting more clarification on goals and they're also more willing to approach him with their ideas."

### Driving for improvement

The 11-page review of Niccum, who holds a Ph.D. in computer science, is emblematic of Lancel's relentless drive for improvement. In his evaluation, surely a rarity among small-

business bosses, Niccum asks all Lancel employees to weigh in on his performance—in full view of everyone else, no less.

"Because we're a small company, everybody is involved in setting the direction, and [the review] is one vehicle to influence how Tom does his job," says Paul Sorenson, a Lancel software engineer. "It gives us an opportunity to contribute more to the company."

All employees are in on the self-improvement kick, since their performances are examined by their peers, project managers and customers—the full 360 degrees. Further underlining the skills- and knowledge-enhancing ethic, employee performance reviews alone aren't tied to raises; workers are paid competitively and offered merit bonuses.

With employees more engaged and intent on steady improvement, everything else generally takes care of itself, says Niccum. Quality is enhanced, as are customer service, overall communication, efficiency and productivity.

### Proof is in performance

Perhaps not surprisingly, then, Lancel has performed well; its 2002 revenues were up 15 percent over the previous year and its 2003 numbers were steady. The company posted such gains while in the midst of "the toughest period the computer consulting industry has ever gone through," says Don McLaurin, CEO of the National Association of Computer Consulting Businesses. "We've never seen so many [computer consultants] fail."

#### CONNECTING

Web and written resources on 360-degree feedback abound.

- Society for Human Resources Management, [www.shrm.org](http://www.shrm.org)
- Center for Creative Leadership, [www.ccl.org](http://www.ccl.org)
- *The Thin Book of 360 Feedback: A Manager's Guide*, by Michelle Leduff Collins (Thin Book Publishing Co., 2000)

While Niccum's evaluation—and those of fellow employees—can certainly be credited for much of Lancel's success, there are other contributing factors. For instance, workers appreciate Lancel's open-book management practices, giving them full access to company finances. The company's relaxed atmosphere—workers play foosball and frequently wear shorts in the summer—also helps boost morale and even retention; turnover is estimated at less than 5 percent. That's far less than for other consulting firms.

But this type of work environment isn't for everybody. In fact, Niccum says, some employees who arrived at Lancel from "closed" cultures couldn't adjust and left. No doubt some were wary their honest criticism would be used against them. But Bjork is adamant that that doesn't happen at Lancel, which stresses operating ethically.

### A "social experiment"

Listening in on Niccum's evaluation, it is apparent that Lancel employees are comfortable with each other and the review process. While Niccum endures his share of criticism, particularly in organization, planning, judgment and job knowledge, he is also showered with praise for his dependability, teamwork, communication skills and leadership.

"Tom is a natural leader," one employee enthuses. "Tom is the guy who people look to, to know that things are going to be all right."

"To me, this is more than a company; it's a social experiment and a continuing work in progress," says Niccum. "We came out of a dysfunctional company that was spiraling down the tubes. We saw how not to do things, but that really doesn't teach you how to do things."

At Lancel, they're committed to finding out. **E**

Harvey Meyer is a freelance writer whose works have appeared in a variety of business, consumer and general-interest publications.

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<sup>2</sup> Costco Cash Cards are issued by LendingTree 4-6 weeks after closing.

<sup>3</sup> Costco program savings based on historical comparison of rates, fees, and points for a \$185,000 30-year fixed rate loan, comparing loans obtained by Costco members through LendingTree from Jan. 31, 2006 to Sept. 30, 2006, to the national average provided in the Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey (PMMMS) for the same period. LendingTree is not the lender in any transaction. Individual member savings may vary. Not available in all states. 07EX0135\_A 12/06



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## WALLY AMOS: BE POSITIVE



**Wally Amos** is the founder of Uncle Wally's Muffin Company. You can reach him at [www.wallyamos.com](http://www.wallyamos.com).

# Just do it ... now!

ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID, "People are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." I believe that people accomplish about as much as they make up their minds to accomplish.

It's amazing how much we are capable of doing once we get started. Getting started is the obstacle. When we decide to "do it now," as the late W. Clement Stone (the man behind PMA—positive mental attitude) advised, miracles happen.

The idea for this column came to me at 4:15 a.m. while I was lying in bed. I was hoping for a

few more minutes of sleep. I decided I needed to write my *Connection* column more than I needed to sleep. I got up while the idea was still fresh and it just poured out. Now I'm ahead of schedule.

I travel frequently, and when I return my desk is often piled high with stuff. Sometimes I spend several days running around and talking about how much catching up I have to do. Then all of a sudden I make the decision to start and work on the first thing that I see, and I keep going until I am finished. It never takes as long as I told myself it would. When I make up my mind to "do it now," it doesn't take long at all.

A piece of advice I read that has been very helpful is "Never touch the same piece of paper twice." That philosophy can be extended to every area of your life. It will keep you in the present—and you will be a lot more productive.

Is there something in your life that you're having difficulty accomplishing? Make up your mind today to stop thinking and talking about it, and "do it now." You'll discover that not only will you get more done, but you'll be a whole lot happier. ☑



## Giving your quick pitch a facelift

IT'S A SIMPLE enough question, used often as fodder to start a conversation: "What do you do for a living?" Yet how you answer that question can determine whether the conversation continues or stops dead in its tracks, advises Lorraine Howell, a Costco member in Seattle.

"Every entrepreneur and

business professional needs a clear, concise and engaging way to answer the question 'What do you do?'" says Howell. She offers suggestions in a new book, *Give Your Elevator Speech a Lift!* (Book Publishers Network, 2006).

Here's a sampling.

■ Know your audience or target customer. Knowing exactly

who would benefit from your product or service is critical. You need to be able to communicate ideas that they will recognize, so they will see how you can help them. You also should be able to adjust your pitch, depending on your audience.

■ Understand what the other person cares about, his or her concerns and priorities.

■ Talk about your results, not how you achieve them. For example, if you are an investment adviser, instead of saying you build balanced investment portfolios for your clients, you might say you build wealth that provides secure retirement for your clients.

■ Connect with your own passion and enthusiasm.

■ Pay attention to how people respond. The goal of an elevator speech is to get people interested and have them ask more questions. If they don't, you need to adjust what you are talking about so people can recognize the value or benefit you provide.

"And remember, less is more," says Howell. For more tips, see her Web site at [www.mediaskillstraining.com](http://www.mediaskillstraining.com). ☑



## Soul Soup

THE *CHICKEN SOUP* folks have been serving up food for thought on numerous topics since 1993. Now, Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen are back with *Chicken Soup for the Entrepreneur's Soul* (available at [costco.com](http://costco.com)).

This latest work is a compilation of stories from 59 entrepreneurs who share their experiences of success, failure and courage. An interesting cross section of people is included, such as Doris Christopher, the stay-at-home mom who developed her love of cooking into The Pampered Chef; Tom Chapell, the down-to-earth guy behind Tom's of Maine; Gary Heavin of Curves; and many more.

The stories offer soup-bowl-size dollops of inspiration and entertainment. But also mixed in are good, solid business tips that can be borrowed for success.

Since *Chicken Soup for the Soul* was introduced, the series has covered 101 titles and sold more than 100 million copies. Costco members Canfield and Hansen are joined on this book by co-authors Tom Hill, Kyle Wilson, John and Elizabeth Gardner and Dahlynn McKowen.

(For a profile of Canfield, see the June 2006 *Online Edition*. Go to [costco.com](http://costco.com) and click on "Costco magazine.") ☑

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# Scam e-mail: don't get fooled

Also:

- Home reports
- iPod thieves

IN A RECENT survey, the National Cyber Security Alliance found 25 percent of Internet users receive bogus e-mail, almost monthly, attempting to elicit sensitive personal information from unsuspecting victims. Sadly, most of these people are fooled into thinking the fakes might be coming from legitimate companies.

Malicious e-mail also can contain spyware or viruses, and Internet experts say many Web users still don't have adequate safeguards against these threats. The survey found 81 percent of home PCs lack at least one of these critical security protections: updated antivirus software, spyware protection and a secure firewall.

The Federal Trade Commission recommends that if you get an e-mail asking for personal information, do not click on the link in the e-mail, don't open any attachments and don't respond to the request for personal or financial information.

## If these walls could talk ...

There's a new way for home buyers to find out the history of a house they are interested in. Called the Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange, or CLUE, these reports offer a five-year history of losses filed against an insurance policy for a particular property. The report is based on claims information submitted by insurers to the CLUE database and includes dates, types of claims and the amounts paid for each. The report costs \$19.50.

If the report shows no losses, it means the house hasn't sustained the kind of damage that would prompt the owner to file an insurance claim. On the other hand, if a claim was filed, a user will be able to direct his or her attention to that matter and advise a home inspector to examine that area more closely to make sure it was repaired properly, particularly somewhere that might get overlooked.

Sellers might also want to order a CLUE report so potential buyers can be assured that the house has been damage free and that coverage won't be difficult to obtain. Only the homeowner can obtain the report, so would-be buyers will need to ask the seller to buy one.

CLUE reports are offered by ChoiceTrust, a subsidiary of ChoicePoint Corporation, which specializes in security and record-keeping programs. For more information, see the company's Web site at [www.choicetrust.com](http://www.choicetrust.com).

## Beware of iPod snatchers

Police are warning users of MP3 players to be on alert for high-tech equipment snatchers. They have

also been getting reports of robberies of cell phones and portable music and photo systems.

The Los Angeles Police Department says more than 8,000 such thefts involved mainly iPods in the last few months. Many of the stolen items were valued at about \$500 or more and were desirable for young criminals to quickly sell off at bargain prices.

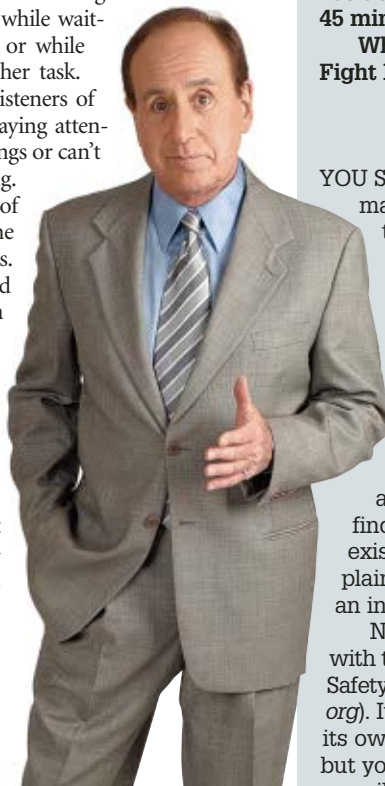
Here are some tips from police on how to avoid potential problems from equipment snatchers.

- Be extra alert when listening to music in public areas, while waiting for transportation or while concentrating on another task. Thieves like to target listeners of all ages who are not paying attention to their surroundings or can't hear what's approaching.

- Change the type of earpiece when using the device in public places. The telltale white iPod earbud can easily get a robber's attention.

- Consider wearing the device, and tucking the wires, inside clothing so they are not conspicuous.

Finally, don't fight or chase thieves. Just get a physical description of the robber and report the incident to the police as soon as possible. ☐



AMY CANTRELL

**David Horowitz is a leading consumer advocate. His "Fight Back!" commentaries are heard daily on the Jones Radio Network. For stations and times, check the radio page at [www.fightback.com](http://www.fightback.com).**

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## Ask David Horowitz

**I DRIVE a late-model luxury car. Starting a few months ago, the heat in the driver-side foot well began getting so hot I have to take my shoes off, put the air conditioner on high and roll down the windows, which only helps slightly. The dealership and the automaker's consumer affairs say the vehicle is operating as designed and that a foot-well temperature of 105 degrees after driving 45 minutes is acceptable.**

**What can I do to Fight Back?**

**Jeff  
San Francisco**

**YOU SHOULD** file a formal complaint with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, by calling a hot line at (888) 327-4236 or filing online at [www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq/](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq/). It will be entered into a database and examined to find if a defect trend exists. Numerous complaints may prompt an investigation.

Next, file a complaint with the Center for Auto Safety ([www.autosafety.org](http://www.autosafety.org)). It doesn't conduct its own investigations, but your complaint is compiled into a public database, which may be used to generate attention, recalls or remedies for the problem.

## Do you have a question for David?

Just log on to [www.fightback.com](http://www.fightback.com) and "Ask David." He will personally respond to your problem if you follow the instructions printed on his Web site. (Costco members receive a rebate off the normal fee.) Questions and answers of the greatest interest to Costco members will be used in this column with the permission of the contributor and will be posted on [www.fightback.com](http://www.fightback.com).

**Although Honest Abe Lincoln's** image has graced the penny since 1909—and the coin itself has been around since the beginning of the nation—its days may be numbered. Some people want it eliminated, saying the coin serves no purpose and that the soaring cost of metal makes pennies more expensive to make than they are worth. But the penny's supporters contend that a penny-free marketplace would raise inflation and hurt cash-paying consumers. What consumers pay at the cash register, they say, would likely be rounded up to the nearest nickel, rather than down, and this would burden the poor, who are thought to use cash more often. What do you think?

# Should we eliminate the penny?



**Find out more about this topic on the Web:**

[www.usatoday.com/money/2006-07-06-penny-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/2006-07-06-penny-usat_x.htm)

<http://money.cnn.com/2006/06/01/news/newsmakers/penny/index.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cent\\_\(U.S.\\_coin\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cent_(U.S._coin))

[www.usmint.gov/](http://www.usmint.gov/)

PENNY IMAGE: PHOTODISC

## YES

from members:

**Kenwood Shone**  
Auburn Hills, MI



It is illogical to continue spending time, both for the retailer and the customer, on something of practically no value.

**Zach Mallahan**  
Spokane, WA



The government could use the money elsewhere, slowing the increase in taxes and allowing the poor to keep more of their money.

**Becky McCarthy**  
Butte, MT



I feel it is useless and too expensive to produce.

## NO

from members:

**Briana Starkey**  
Missoula, MT



If we did away with the penny, we would do away with jobs in Montana and other states that mine copper.

**Skip Hawkins**  
Harrisburg, PA



Why change something that's been good for all these years?

**Taneka Ogden**  
Spokane, WA



The penny has been around forever ... not to mention our great president, Lincoln, is honored on our penny. Let's keep it around as long as we can.



## from experts in the field:



**Robert M. Whaples** is a professor of economics at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; an expert on the history of the U.S. economy; and director of EH.NET ([www.eh.net](http://www.eh.net)).

A SPARKLING, newly minted penny might suggest the innocence and joy of childhood, but pennies have a dark side as well. For one thing, pennies cost more to make than they are worth. Since the price of zinc has soared, the U.S. Mint will lose about half a cent on each of the 9 billion or so pennies it will churn out this year.

Even worse, pennies waste our valuable time. With wages in the United States averaging more than \$18 per hour, it takes only about two seconds for the typical person to earn one cent. According to a recent study, using a penny probably adds slightly more than two seconds to the average retail transaction. Picture yourself waiting in line to make a purchase. There are, say, three people in front of you, and each of them decides to pay in cash and either fumbles around for a penny or receives one in change. If the line's length is constant, each penny use wastes the time of five people (the purchaser, the three people in line and the clerk). By the time you reach the front of the line this has been multiplied threefold, and half a minute of time has been literally wasted because when you're waiting in line you can't be doing other things—perhaps hurrying back to your business or getting off your feet.

This scene is repeated untold times each day. Each instance is pretty minor, but with time valued at \$18 an hour and pennies being used in about one-third of the roughly 100 billion annual transactions in the United States, a delay of only two seconds per penny use compounds to a loss of about \$600 million per year—even if no one else is in line.

Some people say that in a penny-free marketplace rounding bills to the nearest nickel would usually mean rounding upward—and burden the poor, who use cash more often. However, this doesn't seem to be true. Data I recently analyzed on nearly 200,000 transactions from a multi-state convenience-store chain suggest that there is no “rounding tax.” The number of times consumers' bills would be rounded upward is almost precisely equal to the number of times that they would be rounded downward.

It's time to stop wasting our time and money. Let's eliminate the penny.

## from experts in the field:



**Mark W. Weller** is the executive director of Americans for Common Cents ([www.pennies.org](http://www.pennies.org)) a broad-based advocacy group of business, charitable and numismatic organizations.

VIRTUALLY ALL Costco shoppers appreciate a good value, watch their money closely and benefit from more accurate pricing that comes with our current mix of coin and currency. If the penny were to be eliminated, consumers and our overall economy will suffer.

Rounding simply can't be done fairly. Research by Penn State University economist Raymond Lombra shows consumers will be hit with a half-billion-dollar “rounding tax” each year without the penny. Plus, there is little or no evidence suggesting that application of state sales tax would lessen the rounding hit.

While there have been increases in electronic spending, more than 60 percent of all transactions of \$10 or less are conducted in cash. The 10 million Americans without checking or charge accounts who must pay cash at the register would feel the sting of rounding most of all.

Without the penny, the mint will have to produce more nickels that cost twice as much to produce in today's prices. Because of soaring metal prices, it costs more than 7 cents to make a nickel. Spending more money to produce more nickels is no way to save money.

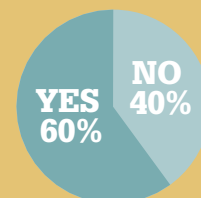
Moreover, the penny is a hedge against inflation. Without it, government spending is anticipated to increase by nearly \$1 billion over five years.

The time associated with making transactions will increase, not decrease, without the penny. The time lost at the cash register handling pennies is exceeded by the time needed to process check and electronic transactions. Plus, consumers who use cash provide merchants, particularly small businesses, relief from onerous bank fees they must pay on debit and credit transactions. Cash is always the cheapest payment form to process.

Americans overwhelmingly support continued penny production (79 percent in a recent Coinstar poll). The federal government's experience with the metric system and dollar coins suggests that changes imposed without public support will fail miserably. There is no need to eliminate the penny—especially when the change would hurt consumers and the economy.

## NOVEMBER DEBATE RESULTS:

Should airport security procedures include ethnic and religious profiling?



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See Dialogue pages for more debate responses

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# Eye candy: bigger monitors for PCs

**Q: I'm interested in upgrading my computer with a big flat-panel wide-screen monitor. I know to look for a high contrast ratio and low response times as performance measures, but what else should I know?**

A: It's a great time to upgrade to a new flat-panel monitor because prices have dropped considerably over the past year, while screen sizes are growing. Instead of a 15- or 17-inch monitor, which was the norm not too long ago, now we're buying 19-, 20- or 22-inch screens (or bigger!).

Compared to bulky CRT (cathode ray tube) monitors, flat-panel LCD (liquid crystal display) monitors are lighter, take up less desk space and are more energy efficient.

The latest trend is wide-screen monitors. Just as your television has gone wide-screen (16:9 aspect ratio instead of the boxy 4:3), so has the PC monitor. Not only are these monitors ideal for your entertainment needs—movies, games or camcorder footage—but there's a productivity bonus, too. You can see more information on the screen while working on documents or spreadsheets or surfing the Web.

You can also multitask more easily, such as having an e-mail window open on the left side of the screen while navigating through your favorite music tracks or photos to the right.

Concerning compatibility with your computer, this shouldn't be an issue. Most flat-panel monitors offer an analog "VGA" input port (three rows of five holes), while some offer both an analog connection and a digital "DVI" input port (three rows of eight holes). If your video card offers digital output, and your new monitor gives you this option, go with this instead of analog for higher video quality (though some argue the difference is negligible).

Finally, for best performance you should make sure your computer has the proper software programs, or drivers, to operate the wide-screen format. These drivers come on a CD with some monitors. If not, you'll have to update the drivers on your own. The computer manufacturer can help you do this. It involves downloading the drivers from a Web site.

Ultimately, if the images on the screen look stretched and unnatural after you've updated the drivers, contact the monitor manufacturer's technical support line. They can help you adjust the resolution to get the best viewing performance.

(You can try adjusting a Windows computer's resolution on your own by pointing your mouse anywhere on the blank desktop, right-clicking the mouse and selecting "Properties," then "Settings." A

box will offer you various resolution options. Try them out to see what looks best on your screen.)

**Q: I peeked and found that I'm getting a new iPod for Christmas. Can you give me tips for extending the battery life?**

A: Congratulations! You'll love it. But does peeking make you more naughty than nice?

Battery life used to be an issue for iPod owners, but newer models last a lot longer than their predecessors. In fact, the newest iPods can play music for up to 20 hours between charges.

But there are still a few things you can do to get the most out of the iPod's rechargeable battery. Here are a few of them that apply to the latest iPods.

- Always update your iPod's software whenever there is a new version, as Apple's engineers can find new ways to optimize battery life. The iTunes software will notify you when a new version is available for download.

- Turn down the screen brightness in the Options menu. Or you can turn off the screen backlight altogether. Similarly, turning off the Equalizer settings will extend the life of your iPod battery.

- When you're not using it, lock the iPod with the Hold switch on top of the device. This will keep it from accidentally turning on when in your pocket, purse or backpack.

- If you can, avoid changing tracks manually, such as pressing the Forward or Back buttons, as the iPod has to turn on the hard drive to select the songs, which uses up more battery power.

- The iPod battery works best when at room temperature. If you accidentally left your iPod in the cold, let it warm up to room temperature before using it.

- You should charge your iPod when the battery has completely drained, even if you don't plan on using it right away. Apple suggests you charge the battery at least once a month.

- Playing video drains the battery roughly five times faster than playing audio!

Visit [www.apple.com/batteries](http://www.apple.com/batteries) for additional tips on extending battery life. ☑

## The Costco Connection

Costco offers a variety of wide-screen computer monitors in the warehouses and at [costco.com](http://costco.com). Also available in the warehouses and online are a wide selection of iPods.



**Marc Saltzman, a leading high-tech reporter, contributes to more than three dozen prominent publications, appears on radio and TV, and is the author of 13 books.**

## Ask Marc Saltzman

Questions about electronics or computers you purchased at Costco? Send them to:

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Please include "Tech Connection" in the subject line. Marc will answer selected questions in this column. We regret that unpublished questions cannot be answered individually.

JOHN HRYNUK

from  
**conception** to  
**decep**

COURTESY DILLON WORKS!



Mike Dillon  
poses with  
his friendly  
battle droid.



From top to bottom: Dillon Works! craftsmen build a bird; A giant firepit takes shape; Metal umbrellas and giant jelly beans are a few of Dillon Works!'s creations.



# Dillon Works! creates the impossible

# tion

**By Steve Fisher**

The building entrance beckons beneath a huge paper airplane. A monstrous pterodactyl hovers above the reception desk, with a gigantic *Star Wars* battle droid keeping watch nearby. Picture frames on the walls serve as portals to extraordinary worlds.

To enter Dillon Works! Inc. ([www.dillonworks.com](http://www.dillonworks.com)), a Costco member company, is to enter a phantasmagoria of imagination and creativity. The company's Web site proclaims, "Design & fabrication of almost anything," but that may simply be modesty. After examining samples of the company's work, "almost" seems to be a needless disclaimer.

From trade-show displays and mall motifs to characters and costumes to unique home theaters, Dillon Works! seems to have no limits as to what it can fabricate. Working with clay, steel, plastic, foam, cloth and anything else they can think of, the master craftsmen and crafts-women delve into their bags of artistic tricks to make clients' dreams come true.

The project can be something relatively simple that costs a couple of thousand dollars or a higher-end flight of fancy in the millions or anything in between. The company leans toward corporate projects but has designed and built a couple of home theaters for private clients—one conjured an outer-space



COURTESY DILLON WORKS!

**From top to bottom this page: Sketching a dream; Sparky, Friends of Costco Guild's mascot for an event benefiting Seattle's Children's Hospital; The company built this home theater with a *Star Wars* theme.**



PHOTOS BY GARY BENSON UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

*Star Wars* theme and the other an underwater environment that makes inhabitants feel as if they are on board the submarine *Nautilus* from *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

The Mukilteo, Washington, company is the brainchild of Mike Dillon, who cut his creative teeth fresh out of high school working on commercials for Coca-Cola and Jeep. Soon he was off to New York to design and build animated window displays for Saks Fifth Avenue and Lord & Taylor. Returning to Washington, he spent time as a production artist in advertising at Nordstrom in Seattle, but Hollywood beckoned.

After working on low-budget films, he did time at Disney Imagineering, designing and building themed elements for Epcot Center, Disneyland and Tokyo Disneyland. One creative experience led to another, allowing Dillon to amass a body of knowledge that couldn't be gleaned in any college program.

When asked how one learns this kind of craft, Dillon replies, "In this business, experience is the only teacher. There are no classes that teach you how to build a 6-foot pancake, an 8-ton Mardi Gras sculpture or the furry back end of a polar bear."

The glitz of Hollywood eventually lost its luster, and Dillon and his wife returned to the Seattle area to raise a family.

"I had always thought I would do my own thing ... start my own company," he says. "I started Dillon Works! in my wife's grandmother's basement."

Success caused growing pains over the 21 years Dillon Works! has been in business. It now owns a roughly 30,000-square-foot production facility. Over two decades, the company has secured a solid client base, including Jelly Belly, Microsoft, the Seattle Mariners, Sony, FAO Schwarz, Nike, Donald Trump and even Costco.

Dillon Works! has 38 full-time employees (40 to 45 with freelancers, depending on how many projects are in progress), but has hit as many as 62. Most are craftspeople—designers, artists, sculptors, welders, scenic painters,



COURTESY DILLON WORKS!

## member profile

**Company name:**  
Dillon Works! Inc.

**Member since:** 1998

**Address:**  
11775 Harbour Reach Drive,  
Mukilteo, WA 98275

**Phone:** (425) 493-8309

**Web site:**  
[www.dillonworks.com](http://www.dillonworks.com)

**Comment about Costco:**

"We once had a friend visiting from New York who said he couldn't believe that our container of peanut butter was as big as his kitchen! He was even more surprised when he found out we didn't build it but just bought it at Costco."—Mike Dillon

carpenters, mold makers and costumers, among others—scurrying about, achieving the impossible. Their backgrounds include film, theater, theme parks, museums, industrial design, trade-show exhibits, architecture and fine art, as well as puppeteering and Imagineering (the art of conceiving the inconceivable).

"Our employees range in age from their early 20s to old enough to remember the Cuban missile crisis," says Dillon. Yet the overall spirit of the enterprise is youthful, not to mention playful. Says Dillon, "We once had a slight scuffle between a huge taco and a chimichanga, but once we gave them both the same amount of cheese they were fine."

While the atmosphere is relaxed, and everyone seems to sport a keen sense of humor, there is intensity to the work. They may be making giant jelly beans and talking cactuses, but the attention to detail is passionate, which leads to dynamic end results.

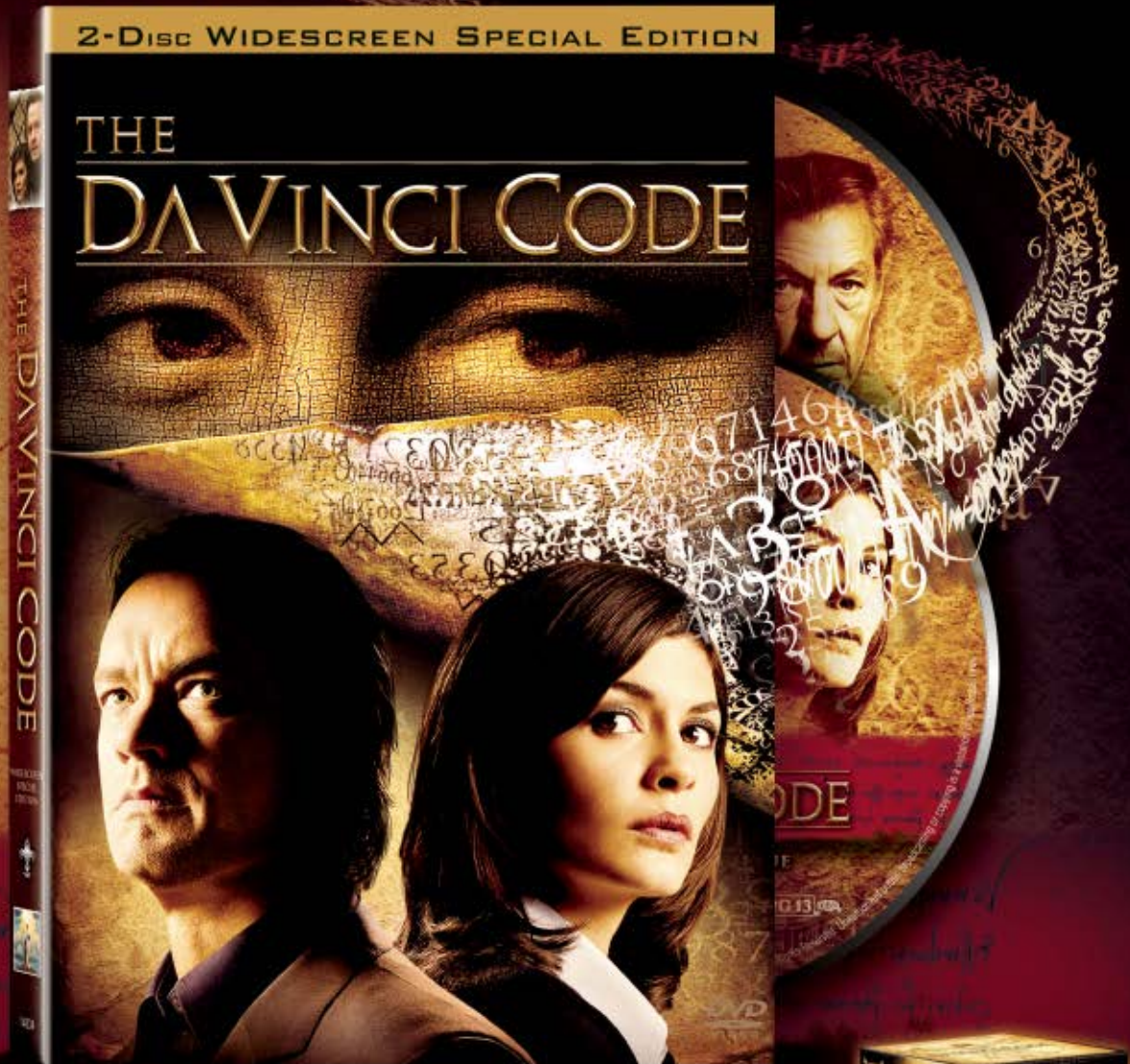
Imagination is not reserved for the designs alone. Often, production techniques for particular concepts have to be improvised. When Dillon Works! was contracted by a famous theme park in Tokyo to design and build almost 100 miniature trees, it needed something that would endure harsh weather. The trees ranged in height from 9 inches to 4.5 feet and were built with metal. Leaves were fabricated using steel wool painted green, and the trunks were made of steel pieces, welded together, then painted with automotive paint. The processes were derived from the expertise of the artisans, enhanced by experimentation.

"From conception to deception" is the company's motto, meaning that if something can be imagined, Dillon Works! can pretty much make it come to life. ☐



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# PHILIPS

# changing direct

CHRIS WEEKS



By David Wight

**F**ew people get a chance to launch a career as a child, much less to sustain that career for more than 50 years. Child-actor-turned-feature-film-director Ron Howard has accomplished just that in an industry that seldom sees such longevity and range.

The prolific and diverse acting résumé that constitutes the first half of Howard's career has as a nucleus two long-term TV roles, both of which attained pop-culture-icon status (Opie Taylor on *The Andy Griffith Show*, Richie Cunningham on *Happy Days*). Part two of his career shifted to directing, first TV movies but quickly graduating to an array of multi-genre feature films notable for strong casting, high production standards and solid storytelling.

Howard was born into a family of actors on March 1, 1954. His parents literally adopted the "living out of a trunk" lifestyle after leaving the University of Oklahoma in the early '50s for acting opportunities in the hub of show business, New York.

Constant exposure to acting, including an uncredited appearance as a crying infant in the low-budget movie *Frontier Woman* (1956), soon led Howard into developing routines with his actor/director dad, Rance, that they used to entertain family and friends. When his father stumbled upon a film role for a child actor, Howard auditioned and won his first credited movie part (*The Journey*, 1959). Returning from that production in Europe, the family relocated to Los Angeles in pursuit of television work, which had jumped coasts in the late '50s.

In L.A., Howard found himself represented by his father's agent. He learned to apply himself to the craft with effective coaching from his father, and started landing gigs on live television shows, leading to parts in episodes of *Dennis the Menace* and *The Twilight Zone*.

**Ron Howard behind his desk (left) and on location in Europe (below) filming *The Da Vinci Code* with crew and producer Brian Grazer (second from right).**

Then came a big break with *The Andy Griffith Show*, which ran from 1960 to 1968. The show, set in the fictional town of Mayberry, North Carolina, was one of the most popular comedies of that decade, and Howard found his Opie Taylor character surrounded by the brilliant acting of Griffith as Sheriff Andy Taylor and five-time Emmy winner Don Knotts as bumbling Deputy Barney Fife. The show was produced at a studio buzzing with creativity, and the young actor inadvertently networked with several mighty show-business figures, including Bill Cosby.

A few major film roles came along during the Griffith years, including *The Music Man* (1962) and *The Courtship of Eddie's Father* (1963). An abundance of TV roles also presented themselves during and after Mayberry, and Howard made appearances on such classic TV series as *I Spy*, *Dr. Kildare*, *Route 66*, *The Fugitive*, *The Big Valley*, *Gunsmoke*, *The F.B.I.*, *Daniel Boone*, *Bonanza*, *M\*A\*S\*H* and *The Waltons*.

The desire to work behind the camera eventually led Howard to film school at the University of Southern California (USC) in the '70s. Although interrupted by acting gigs, including a long run as Richie Cunningham on another hit TV series, *Happy Days* (1973 to 1980), he persisted with his studies and ultimately directed his first feature at the age of 23 (*Grand Theft Auto*, 1977).

A symbiotic pairing with producer Brian Grazer, starting with the production of *Night Shift* (1982) and followed by *Splash* (1984), yielded a long-term partnership. Since 1985, their Imagine Entertainment has given Howard the platform for directing a series of notable features, including *A Beautiful Mind*, winner of 2001 Academy Awards for Best Director and Best Film.

Howard, 52, spoke with *The Connection* from his East Coast home office as his most recent film, *The Da Vinci Code*, was nearing release on DVD.

**Costco Connection:** You had firmly made up your mind to be a director when you were 15 years old. What prompted that decision?

**Ron Howard:** I always thought about it and talked about it. I'd watched my dad direct plays, and many of the directors on *The Andy Griffith Show* had been actors who had turned to directing careers.

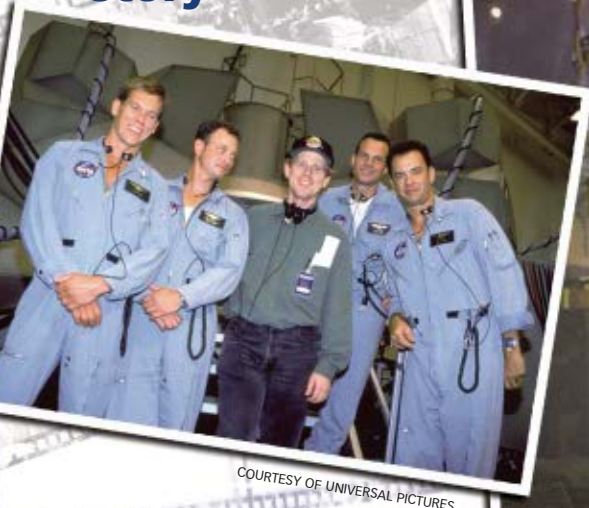
In 1969 I did a Disney Western called *The Wild Country*. The director, Robert Totten, cast my brother

# ctions

Actor-turned-director  
Ron Howard has  
seen success on both  
sides of the camera



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## Directing highlights

- 1977** *Grand Theft Auto*
- 1982** *Night Shift*
- 1984** *Splash*
- 1985** *Cocoon*
- 1986** *Gung Ho*
- 1988** *Willow*
- 1989** *Parenthood*
- 1991** *Backdraft*
- 1992** *Far and Away*
- 1994** *The Paper*
- 1995** *Apollo 13*
- 1996** *Ransom*
- 1999** *Ed TV*
- 2000** *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
- 2001** *A Beautiful Mind*
- 2003** *The Missing*
- 2005** *Cinderella Man*
- 2006** *The Da Vinci Code*



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### ONLINE BONUS!

For Ron Howard's recollections of his experiences as a child actor in films and on television, see the December *Online Edition*. Visit [costco.com](http://costco.com), and click on "Costco magazine."

[Clint] in the other [juvenile] role and took a liking to my dad and cast him as one of the villains. We had a great experience making this movie in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Totten, in his early 30s with a dynamic personality, was a strong actor's director. He had directed a low-budget, independent feature when he was 21 years old, and he kept saying, "You don't have to wait until you're 35 to direct a feature." My imagination ran wild with the idea, and I came out of that project believing that I wanted to be a director and that I could be a director.

**CC:** *You've said before that the atmosphere director George Lucas established on the American Graffiti [1973] set was a cultural departure in old-school versus new-school moviemaking. How was it different?*

**RH:** Instead of burly tough guys making up the crew, on that set there were actually several women on the crew, and college-educated film lovers were everywhere. It was fascinating to me: Clearly the winds of change were blowing, but it was a pretty comfortable breeze for me. I liked the feel of it.

**CC:** *Did you pick up on some directing tips from working with Lucas?*

**RH:** He framed shots with such an overall attention to the detail that went into each frame. That blended with spontaneity—creating an environment that was so authentic, supported with a great script.

**CC:** *Had you already been to film school at that time?*

**RH:** That was the summer before starting film school at USC, where George Lucas was already a legend at that time. His was a great name to be able to drop there. He knew I loved movies and that I would be going to USC. That gave us much in common. Of course, at that point I was just an actor. I was happy to have the job and to observe what he was doing.

**CC:** *So Happy Days happened while you were going to film school?*

**RH:** I kept interrupting film school to take acting jobs, but I was dogged about continuing school. I didn't care if it would take six years to finish; I liked it there. I wasn't getting great movie parts, but then

*Happy Days* came along. I felt that it was too good a job to overlook. Of course, I had no idea that it would become the mega-hit that it did.

**CC:** *How long did that show run?*

**RH:** *Happy Days* lasted for 11 seasons. I was with it for seven and a half seasons, the first season being a half. Then my contract was up, and I left to become a director.

For four hiatuses in a row, I had used that time off to make four films. One was a feature film for Roger Corman [*Grand Theft Auto*, as director and star], and then three television movies. But I knew that since it takes a whole year to make a movie, no studio was going to allow me to make a feature film dividing my time while I was acting on a TV series.

**CC:** *So you were 23 years old when you got to direct Grand Theft Auto, the Corman production that he let you direct if you starred in the film?*

**RH:** We started shooting the day after my 23rd birthday. In four weeks of shooting I lost 12 pounds, and I was skinny to begin with. When that shoot was over, despite the low budget, story limitations and other hurdles, I told my wife at the wrap party that I loved making that movie even more than I thought I would.

**CC:** *Do you have any desire to work in front of the camera again, acting?*

**RH:** A fleeting desire to act a little bit. Every once in a while somebody has offered me something pretty enticing, but I've never been in a position to say yes. Even a couple of roles where people earned nominations. Good roles, but given my family and the demands of Imagine Entertainment, I haven't felt that I had weeks available to devote to something else.

**CC:** *You and Brian Grazer have a prolific partnership, which is Imagine Entertainment. How did you two become partners?*

**RH:** Brian and I both realized that we were the two youngest guys with offices on the Paramount lot. In my case, I had negotiated that into my *Happy Days* deal, and I was already producing and directing TV movies at the time. Brian had been working for a couple of producers and had gone out on his





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From outer space to the workings of the inner mind: Ron Howard's directing has partnered him with some of the best and brightest. From left: *Apollo 13*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *A Beautiful Mind* and *The Da Vinci Code*.



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES HOME ENTERTAINMENT

own producing TV movies for Paramount.

I understood how to work with the networks and close all the TV production deals, but I just couldn't translate that into the movie-studio system for making feature films. Brian had an innate understanding of that game. Together we got *Night Shift* and *Splash* made, both ideas of Brian and excellent film ideas that he produced very well with me directing. Out of those projects, the partnership was born.

The enduring principle is we like working together. We're very different people, but our sensibilities blend in ways that seem to generate successful films. And we have fun.

**CC:** What's the best balance of responsibilities for you on a movie? Director, writer and producer of a project, or just concentrating on one aspect?

**RH:** I like producing and directing, but not being the sole producer because that's such a big job. The mix of producing with directing gives me as the filmmaker a position in every meeting, a reason to be there. That's important to me. Writing? I wrote early; I may try writing again. The experience I gained writing those early screenplays was invaluable because I feel comfortable in story meetings talking with writers. I love the relationship I have with writers.

**CC:** With numerous successful productions over the past 20 years, including director and film Oscars for *A Beautiful Mind*, we come to the most recent film from you and Brian Grazer, *The Da Vinci Code*. What did you learn in the process of making that film?

**RH:** Spending all that time in Europe was an incredible life experience. I gained understanding of the European theological outlook, which is somewhat different than what we pick up here in America. Understanding so much more about history through spending that production time there, then vacationing there as well. It was a real year of personal growth, and we really enjoyed it.

**CC:** You and Tom Hanks have collaborated on three films now [*Splash*, *Apollo 13*, *The Da Vinci Code*].

**RH:** Yes, three films, and I hope there are more because he's a pleasure to work with.

**CC:** Screenwriter Akiva Goldsman is also someone you've collaborated with before [*The Da Vinci Code* [*A Beautiful Mind* and *Cinderella Man*].

**RH:** Akiva adapted *The Da Vinci Code*, and he was around on the set the whole time we were shooting the film. It was a challenging adaptation, and the work went on through post-production in terms of how we were going to use, in the most compelling way, as much of the novel as we could. Akiva was fantastic throughout the whole project.

**CC:** Does the director pick the composer who scores the music for the film?

**RH:** Yes. For *The Da Vinci Code*, I worked with Hans Zimmer for the second time. He also did *Backdraft*. He did a great job on *The Da Vinci Code*, and brought so much to it. He started working on it in the script stage, and came to rehearsals. I always believed that the music would be such an important element in helping to focus the emotional narrative of the story.

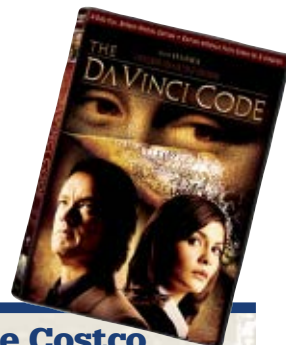
**CC:** Did the huge bestseller status of Dan Brown's book present difficulties when it came to producing and directing the movie?

**RH:** Yes, it did. It was more unnerving than anything I've ever done. I was really as anxious about it as I was about *Night Shift* or one of my first features in terms of how people would respond to it. The expectations were just so high.

A lot of creative choices had to be made to condense the story into that format. What Dan Brown created with the novel is so extraordinary and so diverse in terms of the way it entertains. If you talk to 10 different readers, you'll get 10 significantly different responses to the book, from positive to negative, but within the positives you'll get four or five different reasons why they love it.

At a certain point, I had to decide that it wasn't about pure cinema, it was about doing an adaptation of *The Da Vinci Code*, the novel. I would be as cinematic as I could be, but I was choosing to do this because of a fascinating set of themes and an interesting story line and a really strong bunch of characters that we could mix together into something really quite unique. Is it a pure cinematic narrative? No, it isn't, but it was a wonderful directorial opportunity. That's the way I viewed it. [E]

“ The mix of producing with directing gives me as the filmmaker a position in every meeting, a reason to be there. ”



## The Costco Connection

The *Da Vinci Code* DVD is available in all warehouse locations. Warehouses and [costco.com](http://costco.com) will also carry *The Da Vinci Code* DVD Giftset which includes a cryptex (secret code device) and a replica of Dr. Robert Langdon's diary.



# You've got to crawl before you act

Ron Howard's 25 years as a director came after 25 years of being directed.

By David Wight

## Movies

*The Journey* (1959)  
*The Music Man* (1962)  
*The Courtship of Eddie's Father* (1963)  
*The Wild Country* (1971)  
*American Graffiti* (1973)  
*The Shootist* (1976)  
*Grand Theft Auto* (1977)

## TV Series

*The Andy Griffith Show* (1960–1968)  
*The Smith Family* (1971–1972)  
*Happy Days* (1973–1980)

## TV Series: Selected guest appearances

*Johnny Ringo*  
*The Twilight Zone*  
*Dennis the Menace*  
*Route 66*  
*Dr. Kildare*  
*The Fugitive*  
*The Big Valley*  
*I Spy*  
*Gentle Ben*  
*The FBI*  
*Land of the Giants*  
*Daniel Boone*  
*Gunsmoke*  
*Lassie*  
*Bonanza*  
*M\*A\*S\*H*  
*The Waltons*

**The Costco Connection:** You started making weekly appearances in my living room about 47 years ago.

**Ron Howard:** [laughs] That would be about right, depending on when you started watching [*The Andy Griffith Show*].

**CC:** *The Internet Movie Database [IMDb] shows your earliest movie role in 1956. Just how does a 2-year-old break into the movie business?*

**RH:** It's all about connections. [laughs] That would be *Frontier Woman*. My dad [Rance Howard] had quietly agreed to play the villain in this movie while on leave from the Air Force. It was a very low-budget, grade-C Western about Davy Crockett's daughter. I remember seeing this movie, and seeing him [my father] "die" by being shot off the second story of a building. It's one of those classic Western things where he's shot from the street below but, instead of falling back, he falls forward, breaking through a railing and crashing down [laughs].

My mom [Jean Howard] had a little part in the movie, and at some point they needed a baby to cry. I was on the set anyway, but they couldn't figure out how to get me to cry. Finally the director rolled cameras as he gave me a little toy tomahawk to play with. I became quite enamored with it, and at just the right moment the director yanked it away from me. I started to cry and they got the shot they needed. Then they gave me back the tomahawk; all's well that ends well.

**CC:** *That movie is also the earliest film IMDb lists for your dad.*

**RH:** He'd done a lot of theater and some live TV work, but he hadn't done any movies before that.

**CC:** *You probably didn't catch an acting bug from that early appearance, but you certainly had a career that*

*took off. Was it a family focus for both you and your dad?*

**RH:** It was more a matter of being exposed to acting so regularly, and I did seem to have an aptitude for it. My dad said that when he was directing summer stock [theater], I used to hang around watching rehearsals, and I started mimicking the dialogue. [When I was] a 3-year-old, he and I started developing scenes that we could do for people, and they got a big kick out of it. One day he was making the rounds in New York, which is how actors looked for work in those days, not so much relying on agents. He found himself in an office where there were a zillion kids. He left a note saying he had stopped by, and, hoping to get someone's attention with a snappy P.S., he added, "By the way, I have a son who is a fine actor." They contacted him and asked that he bring me in. They gave him a scene which he taught me, I was able to do it and I wound up in this movie [*The Journey* with Yul Brenner and Deborah Kerr]. I remember a lot of the filming of that movie, which was shot in Vienna, Austria. My dad landed a small part.

My parents were pretty reluctant to have me get into the business, despite the fact that he had nominated me for a role. It was sort of a joke, and suddenly they had to deal with the question "Do we really want a child actor in the family?" All the same concerns existed then as now about children in the business. They ultimately decided to try it. It was a small part, and it gave us all a chance to go to Europe together on somebody else's dime.

**CC:** *So that movie left you with a reel to show around?*

**RH:** Dad had been working regularly before we went to Europe, but when we got back television work in New York had dried up. The industry had moved to Los Angeles, largely because of the popularity of Western TV shows. He decided to move the family to L.A., so we drove across country in a '56 Plymouth







and moved into a tiny apartment in Burbank.

**CC:** Did you seek acting work when you got to L.A?

**RH:** Dad's agent asked if I would go for some auditions, and I started getting a lot of parts. My dad was an excellent acting teacher, and I seemed to have enough concentration to be able to do it well. I always enjoyed the work and never dreaded it—always thought it was fun. I started off doing live TV shows, *Playhouse 90* and *The Red Skelton Show*. Being a nearly 5-year-old who could do live TV became a fantastic calling card. And I worked a ton. If you look at that IMDb list [<http://us.imdb.com/name/nm0000165/>], the year or two before *The Andy Griffith Show*, it was all these different shows—*Dennis the Menace*, *Johnny Ringo*, *The Twilight Zone*.

**CC:** The *Andy Griffith Show* was such a big milestone for you. How long did that show run?

**RH:** That show lasted for eight years, from 1960 to 1968. The pilot was actually done in '59 when I was still 5. It started as a sort of spin-off episode. Danny Thomas was one of the executive producers, and he used his own show to present the pilot episode featuring Andy.

**CC:** What impressions of that period stick with you?

**RH:** That was an amazing studio lot where both *The Danny Thomas Show* and *The Andy Griffith Show* were made. A very small lot called Desilu; now it's called something else [Hollywood Central]. That's where *I Love Lucy* had been made. Desi Arnaz was a fantastic businessman and had built an empire around the *Lucy* show. Even after Desi and Lucy [Lucille Ball] had divorced, they remained business partners, and at one point owned three studios.

The first year I was there, I remember watching Jack Benny rehearse for his show. Later on, *The Dick Van Dyke Show* was there. I met Bill Cosby there and did an episode of his show *I Spy*. The lot was so alive with creativity. *The Joey Bishop Show* was there. Carl Reiner had his offices there. *Hogan's Heroes* was done there. All of this creative activity on a tiny unpretentious lot, absolutely devoid of glamour.

**CC:** Was there a school on the lot that you attended?

**RH:** All of the child welfare laws were in effect by the time I started acting, so there were very stringent restrictions about how many hours a kid could



work. Three hours a day had to be set aside for tutoring. I had the same tutor on the set for all eight years of the show. She was an inspired educator who became an important fixture in my life at that time.

**CC:** Do you feel as though you missed out on any part of growing up because of your work?

**RH:** I always felt I had a unique upbringing. I don't think I missed out, largely because I wasn't the lead of the show and I had a lot of weeks when I was barely working, or not even in the episode at all. Then there were a handful of times when I had a really big part. I was getting a fantastic foundation on being an actor and being part of a company making entertainment—a spectacular internship on many levels. But I also had time to go to public school in Burbank and to participate on sports teams—both baseball and basketball.

**CC:** You had a valuable experience acting and learning about directing in John Wayne's final movie, *The Shootist*, directed by Don Siegel. What was the atmosphere like on that set?

**RH:** It was an awkward situation, but as a life experience it was fascinating. Here were two extremely talented people butting heads, neither without their foibles or flaws, but both unable to get along or agree about the feel of the movie. And I was caught in the middle. Siegel saw me as a student of directing, and complained to me about his problems working with Wayne. Duke [Wayne] saw me as an acting peer with a work ethic similar to his, anxious to use downtime to refine scenes, but I could see that he had a knee-jerk reaction to something with Siegel in the first week that he just couldn't let go.

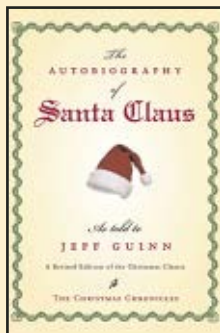
Duke's work ethic was exceptional, part of the old-school ethic that I'd also experienced with Henry Fonda (*The Smith Family*, 1971–1972) and Bette Davis (*Skyward*, 1980). It's a work ethic that belonged to an earlier era and really honored the medium.

Duke was not well during the filming, but he probably didn't expect he was dying because he talked about acquiring another property that would be perfect for us to do together. That was an incredibly flattering notion. [E]



Photos from left to right, Howard with: *Andy Griffith Show* (1960 to 1968) co-stars Don Knotts and Griffith; the legendary John Wayne on the set of Wayne's final film, *The Shootist* (1976); *Happy Days* co-star Henry "The Fonz" Winkler (1973 to 1980); Glen Ford in a scene from *The Courtship of Eddie's Father* (1961); and solo on the set of *The Music Man* (1962).

# Season's Readings



## The Autobiography of Santa Claus

as told to Jeff Guinn

This enchanting Christmas classic returns for a new holiday season, combining historical fact with glorious legend, as St. Nicholas himself reveals the definitive story of Santa Claus.

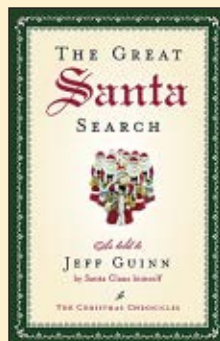
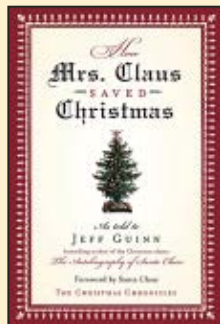
**Paperback / Jeremy P. Tarcher**

## How Mrs. Claus Saved Christmas

as told to Jeff Guinn

In this sequel to the bestselling holiday classic *The Autobiography of Santa Claus*, the first lady of Christmas tells the story of how she and a brave group of people once saved a treasured holiday from being lost.

**Paperback / Jeremy P. Tarcher**



## The Great Santa Search

as told to Jeff Guinn

This little volume takes readers on a sleigh ride through the history of Christmas in America that lands smack-dab in 2006, as a new reality TV show threatens to destroy the true spirit of Christmas.

**Hardcover / Jeremy P. Tarcher**

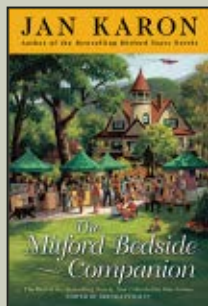
## The Mitford Bedside Companion

by Jan Karon

Edited by Brenda Furman

This must-have companion to Jan Karon's *Mitford Years* series features favorite scenes, casts of characters, Mitford crossword puzzles, trivia questions and much, much more.

**Hardcover / Viking Books**

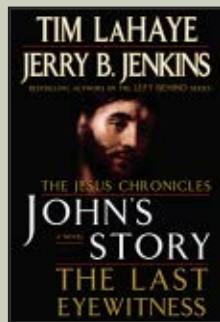


## The Jesus Chronicles: John's Story The Last Eyewitness

by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins

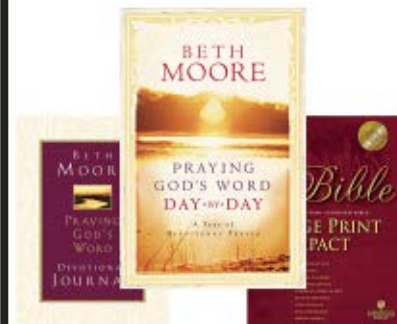
Before there was the tribulation, before the Rapture, before there was a legacy that could be left behind, there was Jesus. The first book in a new series by the co-authors of the *Left Behind* books, *John's Story* tells the glorious, dramatic story.

**Hardcover / Putnam**



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# From Tuscany with love

Classical/pop sensation  
Andrea Bocelli's voice  
soars from his heart

By Will Fifeild

ITALY IS KNOWN for its world-class tenors, but classical and pop music fans the world over feel something special for Tuscan-born tenor Andrea Bocelli. Since his first album, 1994's *Il Mare Calmo Della Sera* [*The Calm Evening Sea*], Bocelli has released 17 CDs, selling more than 50 million copies worldwide. While he has performed before Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, Presidents Clinton and Bush, Queen Elizabeth II, Tony Blair and many other world leaders, his music connects with fans of every walk of life.

Bocelli, 47, appeals to so many because his classically trained voice engenders the passionate lyrics of songs that soar from him, whether he's singing opera or pop. However, he is quick to dispel the notion that his appeal stems from raw talent.

"A voice is an instrument to express feelings—feelings which are sometimes difficult to express in words," Bocelli recently told *The Connection*. "Practicing a few hours a day is not enough: One must maintain an adequate lifestyle in terms of eating and physical activity. I'd say half-jokingly that the only thing common to both opera and pop is the pleasure of having concluded a performance on a positive note."

Oddly, some ardent opera purists have leveled criticism at Bocelli for his forays into pop music. "At the beginning, when I first came out, the critics were really very complimentary," he responds, when asked how he feels about the criticism. "But as soon as I became successful, the winds changed direction. I'll say Oscar Wilde was right when he said, 'People forgive everything but success.' I would add, however, that music is my life. I recognize God's providence, that he gave me the gift of an opportu-

## The Costco Connection

You'll find the highly anticipated *Andrea Bocelli: Under the Desert Sky*, Bocelli's first CD/DVD combo, which features exciting live performances as well as nine stunning tracks of music, at selected Costco warehouses now.



In 1999, Andrea Bocelli joined the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, U2 and Garth Brooks as the only artists to have four albums simultaneously on the U.S. pop album chart.

EVA AND MARIO MULAS

“Before being a singer, a tenor,  
I am a voice, and this is how  
I'd like to be remembered.”

nity to know and hear the world from a privileged vantage point.”

Regardless of critics, Bocelli's work ethic and talent have earned him awards, honors and chart-topping success, but his accomplishments have been hard-earned. His parents knew almost from the beginning that their son would eventually be blind due to congenital glaucoma. When Bocelli lost his vision at the age of 12, his parents instilled in him determination to succeed in life. They assured the young Bocelli that, if he worked hard, he could reach his goals.

Bocelli applied himself academically while he developed his musical talent. Eventually he graduated with a law degree and worked briefly as a state-appointed defense attorney before focusing all his energy on a career in music.

"The career of a singer is rather risky," Bocelli says. "Peoples' tastes change quickly, and there are many, many people who dream of being successful in this field. I'd say my parents were right in suggesting I take a path which would constitute a valid alternative had

I not been successful with my singing. I also think I was very lucky to grow up in Tuscany. Tuscans always say what they feel in their hearts. Perhaps they're a bit crusty, a bit too straightforward, but they are sincere people. As a result, I sing with my heart and I count on communicating to my audience a message of serenity and harmony."

When he's not touring, Bocelli loves surfing, sailing and other water sports. "I love horse riding, skating, skiing, and I often go to the gym, even when I am on tour," Bocelli says. "As all people who work hard, I stubbornly try to dedicate some time and space to my private life, to my beloved sons, Amos [11] and Mateo [8], and to my girlfriend [Veronica Berti]."

When asked what he hopes to be remembered for in 100 years, Bocelli answered, "I must borrow the phrase that my celebrated teacher, Franco Corelli, would often say during interviews: 'Before being a singer, a tenor, I am a voice, and this is how I'd like to be remembered.' And this saying rings true for me as well." ☐

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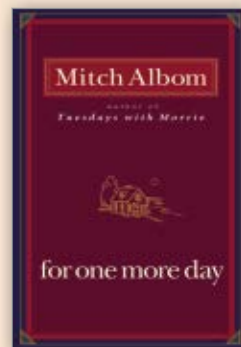
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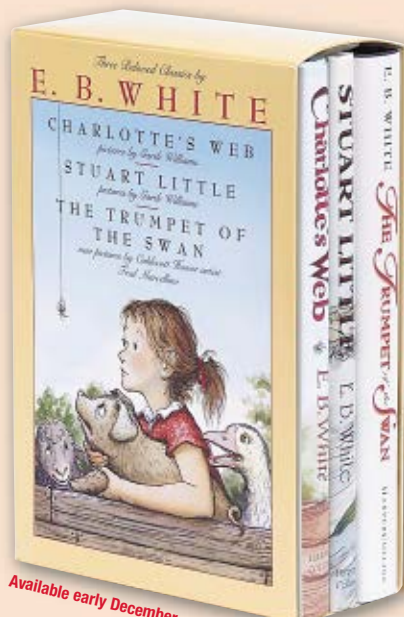
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# Family affair

## Rich relationships feed author's works

By J. Rentilly

WHEN IT COMES to what family is and what it means, there are no easy answers. But with depth, soulfulness, grace and stunning, lush prose, Lisa See reaches across generations, geographical borders and cultural differences, mining her own Chinese-American heritage to shed light on the subject of family. See is, perhaps, literature's finest contemporary purveyor of family, in all its myriad incarnations.

"I don't think I'd be the writer I am, or maybe even a writer at all, were it not for the family that I have, and the family history that I have," says See, author of this month's Book Pick, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, which has nested near the top of the nation's bestseller lists for most of the past 18 months.

See spent much of her youth in Los Angeles' Chinatown, which her great-grandfather, self-made Chinese immigrant Fong See, helped to establish nearly a century ago, earning him the handle "Godfather of Chinatown."

"Those family relationships are really what make us human: exploring them, transcending them, revealing them, giving in to them," she tells *The Connection*. "Sometimes we deny them, avoid them, despise them or abandon them. This is part of being human, working out these relationships—only I write it down."

For See, who is one-eighth Chinese and the daughter of acclaimed author and critic Carolyn See, the multigenerational, multinational family history was brought vividly to life by aunts and uncles aching to tell their own stories of crossing oceans, establishing new homes and businesses, forging love affairs and building their own families. The See family, in many ways, "defied all expectations, broke through all these barriers," the author says.

A brief trip to China in 1989, her first and "kind of a long time coming," put See on a journey that has deeply affected her life and career.

A month later, she began writing *On Gold Mountain: The One-Hundred-Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family*, initiated, she says, as a "short letter, a couple of pages, for my family; an update of sorts."

It grew into "maybe a magazine article" before becoming a bestselling, critically heralded memoir, passionately told, featuring interviews with dozens of the See family's friends, relatives, collaborators and even enemies. See has adapted the book twice to different mediums: first as a museum exhibit, launched at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles, with a sold-out stop at the

Smithsonian, and then as an opera, staged at L.A.'s Japan America Theatre.

See believes the experience of working in these different mediums—the museum ("purely visual," she says) and opera ("purely emotional")—prepared her to write *Snow Flower*, a sweeping but heartbreakingly intimate 19th-century epic of friendship, regret, oppression, survival and secret languages set in China. The novel has sold more than 300,000 copies and has been translated into more than 30 languages. See recently returned from an international book tour, where she discovered that Italian and Polish readers alike are bonding with the novel's intricate tapestry of Chinese history and tradition, star-crossed friendships and quest for family.

"To my surprise, *Snow Flower* seems to move people of every culture equally," says See with genuine humility. "I can only guess it's because we all have a mother. We all have a father. We all have these families who have struggled and succeeded and failed and hurt and been joyful. We all share that. Only the particulars are different—the kind of teapot we might use, for example."

She adds, "But so much of the human experience is remarkably universal, especially where it comes to friendship and family, and I feel very fortunate to have reached such a large audience with my story." [E]

J. Rentilly is a Los Angeles-based journalist who covers film, music and literature.

**ONLINE BONUS!** News about scheduled book signings at Costco and a book giveaway can be found in "Book Look," only in the Online Edition at [costco.com](http://costco.com) under "Costco magazine."



Lisa See

PATRICIA WILLIAMS



## Signed book giveaway

COSTCO HAS 10 autographed copies of Lisa See's *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* to give away.

To enter, print your name, membership number, address and daytime phone number on a postcard or letter and send it to: *Snow Flower, The Costco Connection*, P.O. Box

34088, Seattle, WA 98124-1088, or fax it to (425) 313-6718.

No purchase is necessary. Entries must be received or postmarked by midnight, January 2, 2007. Void where prohibited. Employees of Costco and their families are not eligible. Winners will be notified by mail. One entry per household.

Send your feedback on this month's book to: [discussionquestions@costco.com](mailto:discussionquestions@costco.com)



Pennie's  
pick



Pennie Clark Ianniciello  
Costco Book Buyer

EVERY NOW and then I come across someone who is so talented in so many ways that I can't help but feel a bit envious.

Author Lisa See is that kind of person. Not only has she designed a walking tour of Los Angeles' Chinatown, created a museum exhibit and written the words to an opera, she is also skilled in writing across genres. This month's Book Pick, the novel *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, is a touching story of friendship—and just about as close to perfection as a reader can get.

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* is available at most Costco warehouses and at [costco.com](http://costco.com). [E]

FRANCE FREEMAN

# Beauty inside and out— plus fiction for fun, escape

## FICTION

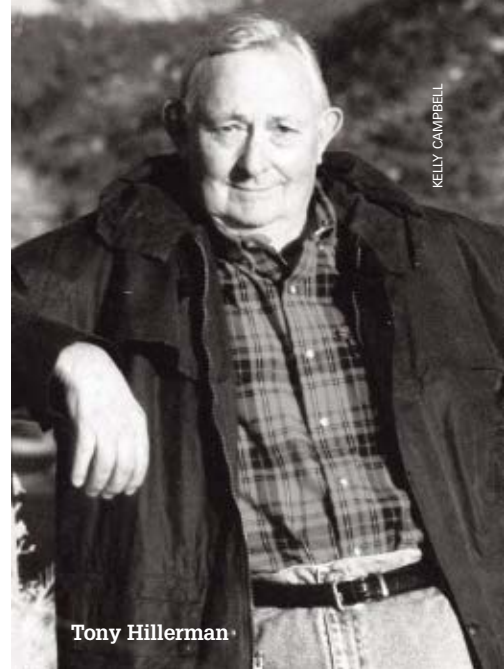
**The Shape Shifter**, by Tony Hillerman. A picture cut from the glossy magazine *Luxury Living* draws retired Navajo tribal policeman Joe Leaphorn back to work—and he's on the hunt for a soulless killer. The distinctive Navajo rug shown in the picture is the same one supposedly destroyed in a fire that took the life of a person identified as one of the FBI's most wanted. It's also a remnant from another case, which went unsolved. Hillerman skillfully weaves together the rug, other clues and the Vietnam War to come up with a startling conclusion.

**The Boleyn Inheritance**, by Philippa Gregory. Returning to the scene of *The Other Boleyn Girl*, historical novelist Gregory again brings the women of Henry VIII's court to center stage. Narrating alternately are Henry's fourth wife, Bavarian-born Anne of Cleves; his fifth wife, English teenager Katherine Howard; and Lady Rochford (Jane Boleyn).

Even though readers already know who was divorced, beheaded or lived to tell, Gregory's rendition is so rich in intrigue and character that the story is thoroughly captivating.

**Hannibal Rising**, by Thomas Harris. Seven years after the publication of *Hannibal*, Harris has written a new novel featuring Dr. Hannibal Lecter, the serial killer immortalized on film by Anthony Hopkins. This novel looks at the origins of Lecter's evil. Readers find him emerging from the nightmare of the Eastern Front, mute and with a chain around his neck. Taken in by an uncle and aunt, Lecter flourishes and becomes the youngest medical student in France. However, his talents soon move beyond the academic.

**True Evil**, by Greg Iles. When FBI agent Karen Crowe's sister dies suddenly, whispering accusations about her husband, Crowe is on the case. Soon she's linked up with a local doc-



Tony Hillerman

tor whom she realizes might be in danger of sudden death as well. Crowe must figure out all of the connections.

**John's Story: The Last Eyewitness**, by Tim LeHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. LeHaye and Jenkins start a new series on the four gospels. It is a remarkable account of the life of the man who fulfilled the prophecies of the Old

## dvd previews

# Classic collections and other fantastic flicks

**Rocky Anthology.** From the Oscar-winning original *Rocky* to the triumphant *Rocky V*, the story of Rocky Balboa is the American dream. The films in this anthology include:

- **Rocky.** Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) is an idealistic young boxer who faces the arrogant heavyweight champ, Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers), in an exhibition bout.
- **Rocky II.** Rocky rises to the challenges of fatherhood, fame and the rematch of the century with vengeful Apollo Creed.
- **Rocky III.** Rocky confronts his toughest adversary yet, Clubber Lange (Mr. T).
- **Rocky IV.** Rocky faces a seemingly unstoppable Russian champion (Dolph Lundgren) who fatally defeated Apollo Creed, forcing Rocky to fight for his friend, his honor and his country.
- **Rocky V.** An aging Rocky returns to the ring to defend his honor against a protégé who betrayed him.

**Shirley Temple Collection.** During the Depression, Shirley Temple movies were a huge source of comic relief. America laughed as she sang and danced her way through every picture in

this 12-disc set, created especially for Costco. The movies in this collection include:

- *Baby Take a Bow* (1934)
- *Bright Eyes* (1934)
- *Curly Top* (1935)
- *The Little Colonel* (1935)
- *The Littlest Rebel* (1935)
- *Captain January* (1936)
- *Dimples* (1936)
- *Heidi* (1937)
- *Just Around the Corner* (1938)
- *Little Miss Broadway* (1938)
- *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* (1938)
- *Susannah of the Mounties* (1939)

**Frank Capra Collection.** The five films in this six-disc collection are a selected anthology of Frank Capra, one of the most celebrated film directors of all time. Capra's creative genius was behind many popular films during the 1930s and 1940s, including the films in this set:

- *American Madness* (1932)
- *It Happened One Night* (1934)
- *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* (1936)
- *You Can't Take It with You* (1938)
- *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939)



The bonus disc is loaded with special features, including a number of interviews with those who were close to Capra, such as Frank Capra Jr., the director's son. The collection also includes a 96-page scrapbook chronicling Capra's career.

**Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest.** In this sequel to *The Curse of the Black Pearl*, Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) tries to settle a debt with Davy Jones (Bill Nighy), captain of the ghostly ship the *Flying Dutchman*. Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) are arrested



Testament and saved all mankind. John is called by God to write a gospel in order to set the record straight. John brings to life the miracles and messages of the man who would change the course of history.

## NONFICTION

**Dr. Perricone's 7 Secrets to Beauty, Health and Longevity**, by Nicholas Perricone, M.D. Perricone has attacked wrinkles and fat; now he helps us age more slowly from the inside out. The secret is stimulating the miracle of cellular rejuvenation. Using his trademark approach to total health that builds on his anti-inflammatory program, Perricone offers seven steps to staying healthy and youthful.

**A Photographer's Life 1990–2005**, by Annie Leibovitz. Leibovitz has created advertising campaigns, worked with arts organizations, seen her work exhibited around the world and received numerous awards. What she is best known for, however, is her photography. This sumptuous book puts together 15 years of work that includes celebrity photos, from Johnny Cash to Michael Jordan, and personal images of family members and friends.—Valerie Ryan



Curl up this winter with great classic films as well as modern hits, such as *Pirates of the Caribbean* (above).

for helping Sparrow escape in the first film. Their freedom can be obtained only by getting Sparrow's compass, which is linked to a key that will open a chest belonging to Davy Jones.

Other DVDs available in December include *The Da Vinci Code*, *Superman Returns*, *World Trade Center*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, *Miami Vice*, *Invincible*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *24: Season 5*, *The Fox and the Hound 2* and *Barrym*.

# Hollywood hits for the holidays!

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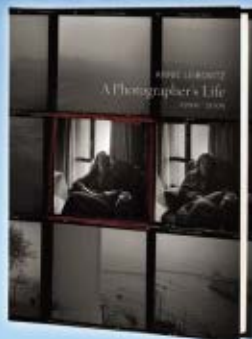


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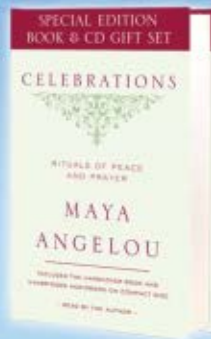
RANDOM HOUSE / HARDCOVER

Available now

The images in ***A Photographer's Life: 1990-2005*** form a narrative chronicling the celebrations and heartache of Annie Leibovitz's large and robust family, often alongside the faces of celebrity.

"I don't have two lives; this is one life, and the personal pictures and the assignment work are all part of it."

—Annie Leibovitz



RANDOM HOUSE AUDIO / HARDCOVER / AUDIO

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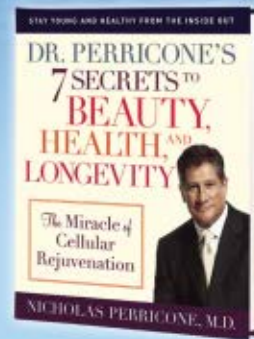
Grace. Dignity. Eloquence. These have long been the hallmarks of Maya Angelou's poetry. ***Celebrations*** is a book and CD containing a collection of timeless poems that chronicle history and advocate peace. To be shared and cherished, the wisdom and poetry of Maya Angelou prove there is always cause for celebration.



BALLANTINE / HARDCOVER

Available now

The dynamic duo has teamed up again. Alex Delaware is back in ***Capital Crimes***, a new book with two gripping novellas: *Thy Sister's Keeper* and *Music City Breakdown*. Set in two cities rich in atmosphere, these mysteries are as heartbreaking as they are baffling.



BALLANTINE / HARDCOVER

Available now

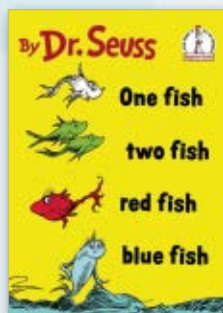
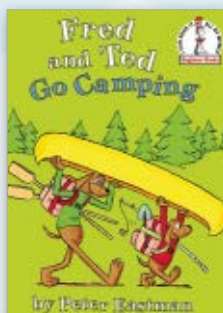
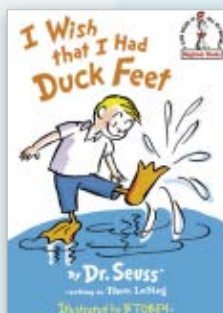
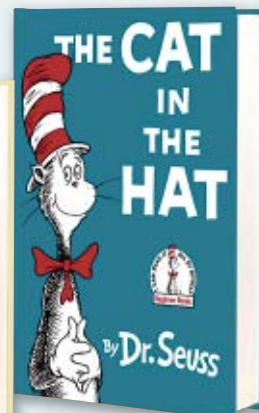
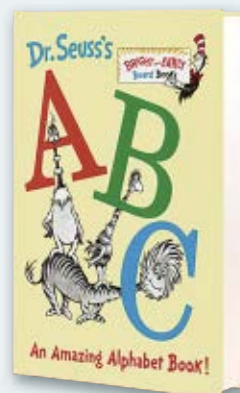
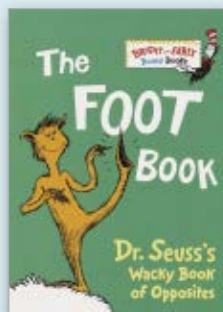
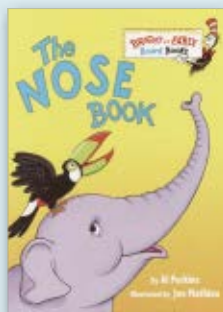
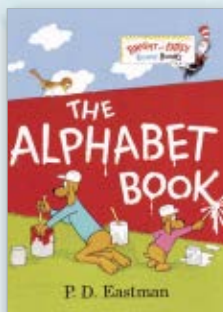
Beauty is only skin deep. Or is it? Working from the inside out, Nicholas Perricone, M.D., recommends seven easy principles to help you achieve beauty, health and longevity on a cellular level.

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# The very best in children's books

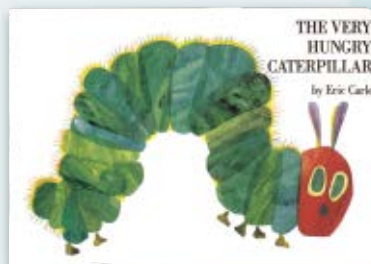


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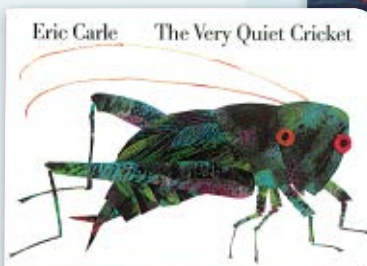
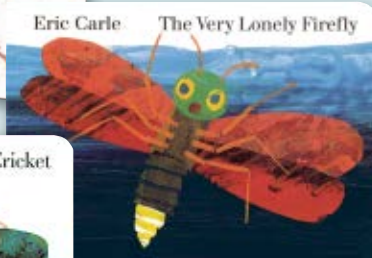
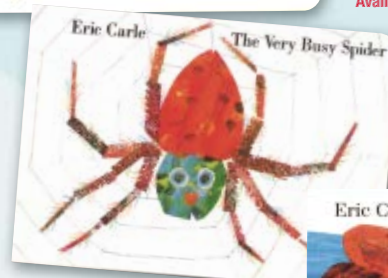
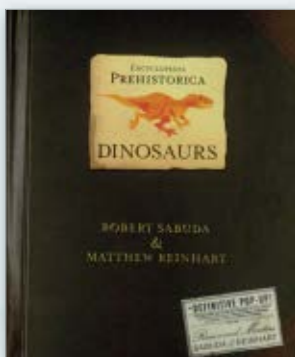
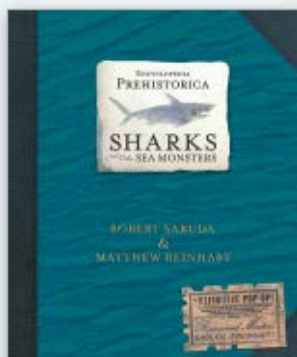
Follow Jared, Simon and Mallory Grace on an adventure into a world filled with fantastical creatures—without ever leaving this one.

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Available early December



"This pop-up bites back!"—Robert Sabuda, author

"With so many layers and moving paper parts, readers may begin to feel like paleontologists. Dino fans won't be disappointed."—*Publishers Weekly*

CANDLEWICK / HARDCOVER  
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Superman Returns™ & © DC Comics.

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For filmmaker Frankel,  
one popular novel offered  
a devilishly delightful story

# Fashion statement

By Diana Jordan

DAVID FRANKEL IS IN the dark in otherwise sunny Miami as he discusses a movie he directed, *The Devil Wears Prada*. There's a power outage, giving Frankel a moment to reflect on the light his film sheds on the enticing yet brutal fashion world.

"It holds a mirror up to all of us," says Frankel. "It manages to show how seductive and superficial things in life are, and why sometimes it's OK to give in to that."

Frankel is quick to say that the bestselling novel by Lauren Weisberger and his film adaptation "... are both really funny ... but at the end of the day it's not a morality lesson, it's a comedy." And he notes that Weisberger "embraced every frame."

In the book, a naïve but ambitious girl named Andy moves to New York and finds work in the fashion industry as the personal assistant to Miranda Priestly, the editor in chief of the fictitious *Runway* magazine. This is a job that—we are frequently reminded—"a million girls would die for." Except that Miranda (played by Meryl Streep) keeps Andy and another personal assistant, Emily, spinning with extreme demands and cruel consequences.

Frankel, who won acclaim for directing several HBO hits, including *Entourage* and *Sex and the City*, saw the book's Miranda as "a one-note, frightening, funny monster," but that character inspired him. He saw a very powerful woman who's got a dark side, capable of provoking love and hate. "That was the character that appealed to me, that you could paint a portrait of the contemporary media world with the character of Miranda," he says.

Frankel says Streep gives the film backbone. "She's able to play the comedy dramatically, and play the drama with a hint of comedy," he says. "You always feel there's something else on her mind, some depth, some sadness, some manipulation, some cruelty, some genius."

The film plays up the themes of loyalty, power and choice. Mesmerized by the glitter of her job,



Director David Frankel on the set of *The Devil Wears Prada* with Meryl Streep. At right, actress Anne Hathaway as Andy Sachs.

Andy becomes more loyal to Miranda than to her colleague Emily and to her friends. Andy does Miranda's bidding, complaining, "I had no choice."


Frankel uses the motif to resonate with moviegoers: "All of us have at one time found ourselves walking down the wrong path, slavishly devoted to the wrong person, and the movie recognizes how seductive that can be and the challenges of escaping that kind of situation."

For Frankel, it happened at his first job, working at a television syndication company. But he ignored the dangling show-biz enticements, instead spending his nights and weekends writing, and eventually forged a writing career.

Frankel finds the fashion world alluring. He worked closely with designer Patricia Field, appreciating her talent for using timeless fashion elements to suggest character. Field even created a signature bag for Andy, a distressed studded leather fringed bag.

His fashion sense? Frankel quips, "If it was a language, I could order dinner." It would be some dinner.

In the end, Frankel says, the film has a schizophrenic quality. Adoring fashion and rejecting it. Embracing thin people and rejecting them for trying too hard to be thin. Admiring power, but rejecting some of the sacrifices it takes to be powerful.

Frankel applauds Miranda Priestly, the devil in the book, because, in the movie, she stands for excellence. "If there are boundaries of humanity that get crossed in aspiring to excellence, is that not possibly a sacrifice that's worthwhile?" he asks. "It's a question ... the movie does stir that idea." 

Diana Jordan reviews books and interviews authors for TV, the Web, radio and print.



## Devil of a drawing

COSTCO IS giving away five *The Devil Wears Prada* DVDs and a replica of a purse designed by the famous costume designer Patricia Field that was used in the movie. To enter the drawing for these items, print your name, membership number, address and daytime phone number on a postcard or letter and send it to: *The Devil Wears Prada, The Costco Connection*, P.O. Box 34088, Seattle, WA 98124-1088; or fax it to (425) 313-6718.

No purchase is necessary. Entries must be received or postmarked by midnight, January 2, 2007. Void where prohibited. Employees of Costco and their families are not eligible. Winners will be notified by mail. One entry per household.

## The Costco Connection

You'll find the movie adaptation of *The Devil Wears Prada* at your local Costco warehouse and on [costco.com](http://costco.com) when it is released this month.

# Books for breakfast

Also:  
■ "Anne-iversary"  
■ Canadian prize  
■ Best business read

FOR YEARS MOMS and nutritionists have been telling kids that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Now Cheerios is adding to breakfast's brain-power benefits. The Cheerios Spoonfuls of Stories annual promotion, now in its fifth year, packages books in 20-ounce packages of the cereal. This year's available titles include *Wiggle, Olivia ... and the Missing Toy*, *The Tiny Seed*, *Horace and Morris Join the Circus (But What About Dolores?)* and *Little Quack's Bedtime*. Each cereal box is designed with a "window" so parents and kids can see which book they're getting. Cheerios expects to give away 25 million books along with \$2 million in donations to First Book, a nonprofit organization that puts new books in the hands of children from low-income families. The Cheerios boxes also include forms for families to make their own donations to First Book. More information is available at [www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org).

## Physician wins Giller Prize

Toronto-based physician-turned-writer Vincent Lam was named winner of the 2006 Scotiabank Giller Prize, Canada's most valuable and prestigious prize for fiction. Lam, 32, won \$40,000 Canadian for his collection of short stories titled *Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures*. The jury had this to say about the winning work: "This series of inter-linked stories is a profound and meaningful glimpse into a world which seems on the surface to be purely medical, but leads us into the metaphorical."

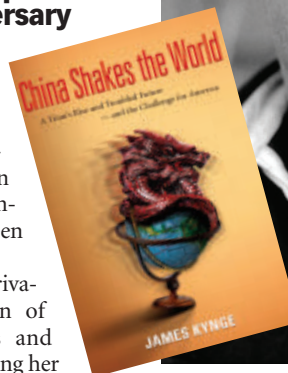
More information about the prize is available at [www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca](http://www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca).

## Anne of Green Gables prepares for 100th anniversary

*Anne of Green Gables*, by L.M. Montgomery, turns 100 in 2008—and Penguin Group (Canada) is ready to party. One of the major aspects of the celebration includes the publication of an official prequel. Award-winning author Budge Wilson will pen the novel.

"Given the appalling deprivation and emotional starvation of Anne's years in the Thomas and Hammond households and during her four agonized months in the orphanage, one is mystified as to how she became the person she was when she made her first journey to Green Gables with Matthew Cuthbert," says Wilson. "How could she have become so vibrant a person, so talkative, so articulate, so optimistic, so full of extravagant dreams? This was the enticing puzzle that drew me into the project."

Penguin plans to further celebrate the anniversary with the publication of a 100th-anniversary edition of the novel that features the original cover art. A third project, *Imagining Anne: The Scrapbooks of L. M. Montgomery*, will allow access to Montgomery's thoughts and interests by reproduc-



James Kyngé  
*China Shakes the World*

LUCY CAVENDER

ing pages from her own scrapbooks from the years 1893 to 1908.

## Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book Award

Now in its second year, the *Financial Times* and Goldman Sachs Business Book Award is designed to highlight "the business book that provides the most compelling and enjoyable insight into modern business issues, including management, finance and economics."

James Kyngé took the prize of £30,000 (\$56,000) in late October for his book *China Shakes the World*. The runners-up will each receive £5,000 (\$9,340).

## giveaways

COSTCO HAS THE gift-giving spirit—as evidenced by books we have to give away. The signed books include five copies of *Lisey's Story*, by Stephen King; five copies of *Ricochet*, by Sandra Brown; and five copies of *Acts of Treason*, by Vince Flynn. We also have five unsigned copies of *The Thirteenth Tale*, by Diane Setterfield, to give away. To enter, print the name of the book you'd like to win and your name, membership number, address and daytime phone number on a postcard or letter and send it to: December Book Look Giveaway, *The Costco Connection*, P.O. Box 34088, Seattle, WA 98124-1088, or fax it to (425) 313-6718.



No purchase is necessary. Entries must be received or postmarked by midnight, January 2, 2007. Void where prohibited. Employees of Costco and their families are not eligible. Winners will be notified by mail. One entry per household.

Send your feedback on this month's Buyer's Pick to: [discussionquestions@costco.com](mailto:discussionquestions@costco.com)

## signings

**Dr. Michael Roizen** signs *YOU: On a Diet* on December 2, at noon, at the **Chicago (Lincoln Park)**, Illinois, Costco, 2746 N. Clybourn Ave.

**Mitch Albom** signs *For One More Day*

- December 9, at 4 p.m., at the **Madison Heights**, Michigan, Costco, 30550 Stephenson Highway.
- December 16, at 3 p.m., at the **Commerce Township**, Michigan, Costco, 3000 Commerce Crossing Rd.

All signings are subject to change or cancellation.

(Click here for maps and directions to Costco locations.)





**BON APPÉTIT**  
ANNE DESJARDINS

*Chowders (above) and soups are a mainstay of Canadian cuisine throughout the year.*

# Soup's on

From traditional to sophisticated, soup crosses borders, seasons and ages

By Anne Desjardins

**S**oup recipes are among humanity's oldest and tastiest. According to the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, soup is a "usually savoury liquid dish made by boiling meat, fish or vegetables, etc. with seasoning in stock or water, and often served as a first course."

Historically, soup has often constituted an entire supper. The French word for soup, *potage*, describes a stock or bouillon in which chopped or blended ingredients are cooked. The ingredients usually come from the kitchen garden. In fact, the French word for the kitchen garden is *potager*—a patch of land that provides food for people as opposed to food for livestock.

In Québec, soup once started, and sometimes ended, every meal. Served with bread, some soups were hearty and included beans or peas, root vegetables and bacon or another fat. Québec's famous yellow pea soup is a classic example. Ah, this homemade pea soup serves



JEAN-FRANÇOIS BÉRUBÉ

up a ladleful of good memories; our grandparents are still asking for it over and over again. Even in today's supermarkets, traditional pea soup is a popular item. Italian minestrone became part of Canadian tradition 75 years ago, barley soup and clam chowder 25 years before that. Today, Asian-inspired soups—Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese—are all the rage.

In my restaurant, we also interpret soup recipes in a very modern way. They are very

light, not thickened and usually include a sophisticated mix of ingredients. I like to introduce new taste combinations, sometimes based on tradition, sometimes completely new. Today we are free to cook "off the beaten track." You just have to let the season inspire you. **E**

*Anne Desjardins is the award-winning chef and owner of L'Eau à la Bouche, a hotel-restaurant located in Sainte-Adèle, Québec.*

## CELERY AND SPINACH SOUP

with fresh goat cheese and virgin olive oil croutons

This recipe can be prepared several hours ahead.

Ingredients for six servings

15 mL (1 Tbsp.) butter  
1 large onion, minced  
½ apple, peeled, seeded and cubed  
½ bunch of celery, strings removed and minced  
½ celery root, peeled and cut into large cubes  
15 mL (1 Tbsp.) cider vinegar  
600 mL (2½ cups) of chicken bouillon  
1 small potato, peeled and cut into cubes  
250 mL (1 cup) young spinach leaves  
Salt  
30 small cubes of country-style bread  
30 mL (2 Tbsp.) virgin olive oil  
90 g (3 oz.) fresh goat cheese  
Minced chives (or 1 green onion, minced fine)

### Soup

In a large cooking pot, melt butter and fry onion and apple until golden. Add celery, celery root, vinegar and bouillon, and bring to a boil. Add the potato cubes and simmer for around 40 minutes. Add the spinach and pour into a blender, adding salt to taste. Set aside.

### Croutons

Preheat oven to 205° C (400° F). Put the bread cubes in a bowl and drizzle with 15 mL (1 Tbsp.) of olive oil; mix well. Place on a baking sheet and bake for approximately 6 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside.

### Goat cheese

In a small bowl mix together the goat cheese, chives and 15 mL (1 Tbsp.) of olive oil. Set aside.

### Serving

When you are ready to serve, reheat the soup, pour into heated soup dishes and add 5 croutons and 15 mL (1 Tbsp.) of goat cheese per serving. Enjoy!

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# King of delis

## Carnegie Deli serves up big food, history

By Richard Deitsch

ON A RECENT October afternoon one could find a quartet from Spain, a trio of Australians and a couple from Italy eating within a few feet of each other at the Carnegie Deli. The popularity of the restaurant, which sits on a crowded stretch of Seventh Avenue near West 55th Street in Manhattan, has grown so great that longtime owner Milton Parker likes to joke how “they named a world-famous concert hall after us.”

Eating at the Carnegie is an experience everyone should enjoy at least once—preferably without your cardiologist. It was the longtime favorite hangout of one-liner king Henny Youngman, and immortalized by Woody Allen in the film *Broadway Danny Rose*. The makeup of the customers today is mostly tourists, who line up in front of the neon storefront to sample pastrami and corned beef piled so high they could start for the Knicks.

While you can order a sandwich to go at the front counter, the real fun is sitting elbow to elbow with other patrons in the dining room. According to the Carnegie Deli’s acting president, Sandy Levine, who bills himself as “the MBD”—for “Married the Boss’s Daughter,” because he married Parker’s daughter, Marian—the Carnegie’s legendary overstuffed sandwiches date back decades to when the counter men held a contest to see who could make the biggest sandwich without it falling over.

Calling the sandwiches overstuffed may be underselling them. The deli’s sandwiches are about 5 inches high, and people have been known to gasp upon delivery of their food. The Carnegie’s signature sandwich is the Woody Allen (“Lotsa corned beef plus lotsa pastrami”), and if cheesecake is your dessert of choice, a piece the size of Asia goes for \$7.95.

The restaurant dates back to 1937, when Izzie and Ida Orgel opened a 42-seat restaurant and named the place the Carnegie Deli because of its proximity to Carnegie Hall. They sold the deli five years later to Max Hudes, who ran it until 1976. That’s when Parker and the late Leo Steiner took over. What ultimately turned the restaurant into a Big

Apple icon was a March 2, 1979, review in *The New York Times* by noted restaurant critic Mimi Sheraton, who declared the Carnegie “tops” in the city for pastrami and corned beef.

The brand has since gone national, and a second location was opened in the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas in February 2005. “We make our own product,” says Levine when asked about the Carnegie Deli’s staying power in a city that devours restaurants weekly. “Our corned beef and pastrami we have down to an exact science.”

Part of the dining experience includes gawking at walls filled with hundreds of autographed photographs of the famous and infamous who have eaten at the restaurant. One sample row offers the following absurd slice of Americana: Vicki Lawrence, Orrin Hatch, Don King, Rikki Lake and Pat Sajak. As he walked around his store, schmoozing with diners, Levine, whose personality is as oversize as his sandwiches, pointed to an autographed photo of a recent patron. “TO THE CARNEGIE DELI. MEAL OR NO MEAL.” It was signed by Howie Mandel.

But even the famous occasionally have to wait for a meal. In June 2000 then-President Clinton wanted to eat at the restaurant, but when the Secret Service arrived to sweep the restaurant, they were met by a line of people in front of the store.

“The Secret Service said, ‘You have to move away from the store. The president of the United States is coming,’” Levine recalls. “But the people in line refused. ‘We ain’t moving,’ they said. ‘We came a long way to eat at this place, and we don’t want to lose our place on line.’ The Secret Service ended up canceling the reservation.”

All was not lost. Clinton ate at the restaurant the following year. Levine says he ate a Woody Allen. “It was delicious,” declared the former president, before adding, “I waited a long time for this dinner.”

*Richard Deitsch is a New York City-based writer.*

DAVID LUBARSKY

## vendor profile

**Name:** Carnegie  
Delicatessen Restaurant

**Founded:** 1937

**Acting president:**  
Sandy Levine

**Number of  
employees:** 150

**Address:** 854 Seventh Ave.,  
New York, NY 10019; Mirage  
Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

**Phone:** (212) 757-2245 or  
toll-free 1-800-334-5606

**Hours:** The deli is open  
365 days a year from 7 a.m.  
to 4 a.m.

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IRIDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

# Festive feasts

THE HOLIDAYS ARE a time for many things—worshipping, sharing gifts, spending time with family and friends and, of course, celebrating with special meals.

When it comes to the food part, thanks to our diversity as a culture, along with countless family traditions, we are blessed with an abundance of choices. A traditional holiday meal can be as elaborate as a succulent roast on New Year's Day or as homey as pancakes on Christmas Eve!

Featured here are some suggestions for your own special holiday meal. These recipes feature ingredients available at Costco and are taken from Costco's cookbooks, which can be found online at [costco.com](http://costco.com) under "Costco Cookbook." All five cookbooks are now online, including the latest, *Cooking in Style The Costco Way*.

Remember to top off any holiday meal with one of Costco's delicious pumpkin or apple pies. Happy holidays to you and your family!—*Tim Talevich*

## Garlic-Studded Bone-in Prime Rib

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1 bone-in prime rib                    | Coarse salt         |
| 10 garlic cloves, peeled and quartered | Black pepper        |
| 1/2 cup oil                            | 2 pounds shallots   |
| 1/4 cup fresh rosemary leaves          | 2 pounds carrots    |
| 1/4 cup fresh thyme leaves             | 2 pounds celery     |
|  | 1 bottle red wine   |
|  | 2 quarts beef broth |
| 1/2 cup Dijon mustard                  |                     |

1. Preheat oven to 300°F.
2. With a small knife, cut about 10 slits in the prime rib. Stuff each cut with pieces of garlic.
3. In a small bowl, combine oil, rosemary, thyme and mustard; rub over the meat. Sprinkle generously with salt and pepper.
4. Roughly chop vegetables and place in a roasting pan to make a "rack." Place the rib on the vegetables and roast in the oven for approximately 12 to 15 minutes per pound, or to an internal temperature of about 115°F (for medium rare).
5. Remove meat from the pan and let rest for 15 to 20 minutes; this allows the juices to spread back through the entire roast.
6. Add wine to the roasting pan and cook on the stovetop over medium heat until almost dry. Add beef broth and cook to reduce by about half. Strain sauce, adjust seasoning and serve over well-rested prime rib. Makes 8 to 10 servings.



IRIDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

## Kirkland Signature Spiral-Sliced Ham with Warm Maple-Apple Salsa

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Kirkland Signature™ Hickory-Smoked Spiral-Sliced Ham | 4 medium cooking apples, cored and chopped |
| 1/2 cup butter   | 1 cup walnut pieces, toasted               |
|  | 1/2 cup pure maple syrup                   |

1. Heat ham according to package directions.
2. Melt butter in a large skillet. Add apples and stir-fry over medium-high heat until tender-crisp. Stir in walnuts and syrup; heat through. Ladle over ham slices to serve. Makes about 10 servings.

MORE RECIPES ON PAGE 38



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*“Building Better Bodies For Life”*

## creative cooking

### Wok-Seared King Crab Legs in Spicy Garlic Sauce

3 to 4 pounds whole king crab legs, split	4 tablespoons canola or other vegetable oil
3 tablespoons toasted sesame oil	2 tablespoons chopped garlic
4 tablespoons chili paste with garlic	4 servings cooked rice, prepared according to package directions
1/2 cup chicken stock or broth	8 sprigs fresh cilantro, for garnish
1/2 cup hoisin sauce	

1. Chop crab legs into smaller sections or leave whole.
2. Combine sesame oil, chili paste, chicken stock and hoisin sauce in a bowl, blend thoroughly and reserve.
3. Heat oil in a wok until very hot. Carefully add crab legs to the wok and toss in the hot oil to coat and heat.
4. Add chopped garlic and the reserved sauce, and toss to coat thoroughly.
5. Place rice on 4 plates and top with crab. Pour the sauce over all and garnish with cilantro sprigs. Makes 4 servings.





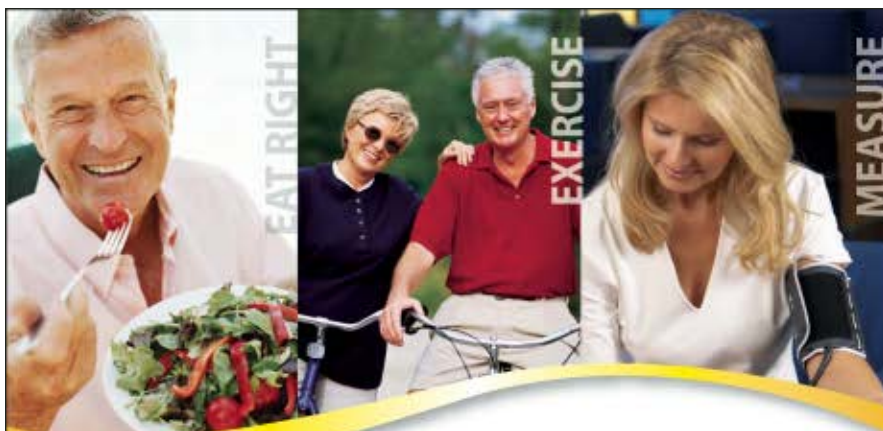


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FRANCE FREEMAN

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The **Whirlpool Duet Sport 6.5-cu.-ft.-Capacity Electric and Gas Dryers** (WED8410SW, WGD8410SW) dry clothes and help keep them looking great. Features include five temperatures, painted steel basket, 10 cycles, dryer rack and Wrinkle Shield feature. Second-year warranty. Item #131393, 131390

## Also available:

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**Whirlpool Super Capacity Plus Washer** (WTW5810SW, Item #131682)

**Whirlpool Super Capacity Plus Electric Dryer** (WED5810SW, Item #131808)

**Whirlpool Super Capacity Plus Gas Dryer** (WGD5810SW, Item #131831)

**Whirlpool Pedestal Drawer** (LAB2700MQ, Item #729826) sold separately.

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WAREHOUSE ONLY



# The pride of South Africa awaits

By Pat Volchok

THE PRIDE OF South Africa shines in its vast cultural diversity, trend-setting cities, heady vineyards, immense savannas, world renowned wildlife reserves and wild-at-heart moments. This is the Africa that just 70 Costco members and I will experience this April on Costco Travel's Kirkland Signature™ African vacation, created exclusively for members.

From beginning to end, we will enjoy world-class food, wine and accommodations, and journey through stunning scenery. All details will be tended to with meticulous care—for instance, members will be given a personal cell phone to use throughout the trip with no charge for incoming calls!

Our trip of a lifetime begins with four nights in sophisticated Cape Town. Chosen in 2006 by *Travel + Leisure* as one of the 10 best cities in the world, Cape Town sits at the base of magnificent Table Mountain, where the Indian and Atlantic oceans merge. It is the gateway to an exhilarating array of urban, historical, cultural and adventurous activities.

We will enjoy the pampered life at the five-star Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa, voted in 2005 by *Condé Nast Traveler* as one of the "World's Favorite Top 100 Hotels." Poised above the Atlantic and flanked by the majestic Twelve Apostles mountain range, the hotel is a boutique-style retreat extraordinaire known for its exceptional standard of service.

Guests arrange whatever calls to them, from shark-cage diving to a private picnic on the beach. Costco Travel includes a VIP-style welcome cocktail party hosted by yours truly; a day traveling in vintage cars to the famous Cape Winelands (an area that produces South Africa's premier wines), with an unforgettable lunch experience at Moyo restaurant on the grounds of the Spier winery; and much more.

## Connecting

For more information, visit [costco.com](http://costco.com), select "Travel" and then "South Africa" or "Kirkland Signature," or call toll-free 1-877-849-2730.



Pat Volchok

IRIDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

Then it's off to Johannesburg to connect with our charter flight to the privately owned Sabi Sabi Game Lodge in the Sabi Sands Game Reserve and a most amazing two-night/three-day safari.

Sabi Sands shares a fenceless border with world-famous Kruger National Park. This unspoiled area is one of Africa's remaining havens for big cats and is recognized worldwide for its numerous species of wildlife. Elephants, zebras, rhinos, giraffes, hippopotami and 300 species of birds roam freely.

Since humans are limited in number at the reserve, members are separated into smaller groups and escorted to one of three award-winning, deluxe game lodge camps—each offering an unforgettable African safari experience, complete with outstanding service and elegantly appointed private accommodations.

Gourmet meals are served in the intimate lodges or a traditional *boma* (an outdoor eating area surrounding a campfire). Enjoy two early-morning and two late-afternoon/evening game drives in eight- to 10-passenger open-air Land Rovers with English-speaking rangers and experienced Shangaan trackers, plus guided bush walks and a spectacular bush breakfast.

From Sabi Sabi, we continue to our last destination: majestic, mile-wide Victoria Falls and the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge. Thrilling adventures range from white-water rafting to bungee jumping. Costco Travel includes a guided walking tour of the falls and a Zambezi River farewell sunset cruise.

Savings on this truly special African adventure, including complimentary round-trip airfare from most U.S. destinations and value-added extras, are more than \$1,800 per person.

"For those seeking the ultimate, once-in-a-lifetime holiday gift, we offer Africa," says Shannon Parker of Costco Travel.

The pride awaits—but do not dally. The last Costco Travel Kirkland Signature offering sold out in less than 48 hours. ☐

LION WORLD TOURS



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Hosted by Pat Volchok

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\*Price is per person based on double occupancy and includes airfare and hotel taxes. Price is valid for travel as specified. Price and inclusions are subject to change without notice. Travel purchases are not included in the Executive Membership 2% Reward program. Seasonal surcharges, availability, blackout dates and restrictions may apply. All prices are in U.S. dollars. Costco Travel disclaims liability for any inaccuracies or typographical errors. Costco Travel is a registered seller of travel and travel agency in the following states: Washington (WST 602042600); Ohio (8789302); Florida (Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST32555); and California (CST 2054248-50). Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the state of California. 07TRD105\_A 12/06

Fine grapes, skilled hands  
and time create a classic

# Champagne Chronicles

By Annette Alvarez-Peters

can come only from France's Champagne region. The 2006 harvest was just wrapping up when we arrived during the first week of October. For Champagne, only three grape varieties are allowed: Pinot Noir, which adds weight,

structure and power to a blend; Pinot Meunier, which dominates the plantings and provides fruitiness and roundness; and Chardonnay, which contributes finesse and elegance to the blend.

## Ode to Dom Pérignon

My first stop is the museum at the Abbey of Hautvillers (property of acclaimed Champagne maker Moët & Chandon), which lies along the Marne River. I am received with a glass of Dom Pérignon while taking in the beautiful vineyard sites. Following lunch is a tour of the abbey and a lesson in the history of Dom Pierre Pérignon. He was, I learn, a late-17th-century Benedictine monk who was the cellar master at Hautvillers and one of the finest makers of white wine from red grapes (Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier).

At Hautvillers, Dom Pérignon was in the perfect location for his craft. This is one of the coolest wine regions in the world—and a place of distinct vintages since the Roman times. During cold winters, fermentation is often arrested before all the sugars are converted to alcohol. With the arrival of spring, the wines (and yeasts) warm up and begin fermentation again, creating the “sparkling”

character as carbon dioxide is trapped in the bottled wine (carbon dioxide is a natural byproduct of fermentation).

Dom Pérignon is credited with placing the wines in glass bottles before the secondary fermentation to preserve color and freshness, as well as with developing the unique blending that goes into the making of Champagne. He did this by keeping various vineyard lots separate, then blending them to create a perfect balance. Up to 60 different wine lots can be used to blend Champagne.

Current *chef de cave* (head winemaker) Richard Geoffroy takes me through several vintages of Dom Pérignon to demonstrate how beautifully Champagne can age. It develops toasty bread and yeast notes that are exquisitely balanced and present a foundation of mineral and acidity.

A final stop to pay homage to the statue of Dom Pérignon at the Moët & Chandon headquarters precedes a dinner/tasting featuring 1983 vintage Brut, chosen to commemorate the year Costco opened its first warehouse in Seattle. Costco is the largest retailer of the *tête du cuvée* (top blend, the highest-quality and usually most expensive group of Champagne) Dom Pérignon in the United States, selling nearly 125,000 bottles last year.

## Grapes, skills and history

A brief look at how Champagne is made is called for here. Champagne makers are skilled and talented—they mix dozens of still wines from different vintages and different



FRANCE FREEMAN

A DISTINCT chill can be felt in the morning air here in France's northern winegrowing region, a place of rolling vineyards, ancient stone buildings and roads that wind through picturesque estates and centuries of history. It's October, and the chill is warmly embraced because it means harvest time is here—and Champagne will be made.

I have traveled from Paris some 90 miles northeast toward Epernay in France's northernmost winegrowing region. The goal: Visit several of France's leading Champagne makers, including the house that makes Costco's Kirkland Signature™ Champagne, to learn about the 2006 crop and the fascinating process of making Champagne. My trip involved occasional sampling, a traditional French meal or two and tours led by gracious hosts at the various estates.

Champagne in the true sense of the name

Autumn brings tinges of rust and purple to France's Champagne region, where Costco's Kirkland Signature Champagne is made.





lots to create their *assemblage* (blend) and form a consistent style from year to year.

This *méthode champenoise* (traditional method) begins with lightly pressed still wines fermented in stainless steel vats (although a few houses ferment in cask). Next, the wine-makers create their base *assemblage*—the first blend. The *assemblage* is mixed with yeast and *liqueur de triage* (sugar and wine) to initiate a second fermentation in a temporary sealed (or capped) bottle. The resulting carbon dioxide is captured in the bottle, creating “sparkle.”

After careful aging, a process called *remuage* (riddling) takes place, which moves the sediment from the side of the reclining bottle to the neck. The bottles are placed into *pupitres*, A-frame racks in an upside-down vertical position. Traditionally the bottles are rotated by hand to force yeast sediment to the neck. Today, most of the riddling is done by large machines called *gyropalettes*.

As the bottles rest upside down, the yeast sediment sinks to the neck of the bottle. To remove it (*dégorgement*), the neck of the bottle is dipped into a solution that freezes it, and the yeast is removed as a solid plug. Once the wine is clear and fermented bone dry, a mixture of wine and sugar (*dosage*) is added to top off the wine. This determines how dry or sweet the Champagne will be. Finally, a cork and a wire cage to hold it onto the bottle are applied, along with the labels and foil around the neck, before release to the market.

## On to Reims

My second day in Champagne begins in historic Reims, where I visit the cellars of Krug, a renowned house that produces only prestige *cuvées* or *tête du cuvées*. The fifth and sixth generations of the Krug family oversee the operation today. The family ferments all of its base wines in neutral oak barrels and matures all Champagnes for six to eight years before release.

The vineyards of Champagne are rated according to the quality of fruit produced over long periods of time. Grand Cru (a rating of

100 percent) is the highest rating and consists of 17 communes, or districts. Another 38 communes are rated Premier Cru (90 to 99 percent), and the remainder of the villages are rated good (80 to 89 percent). The best vineyards are ones with slopes with southern exposure for maximum sun and drainage.

These classifications usually aren't listed on Champagne bottles. But the house of Krug uses only grapes of the highest quality sourced from Grand Cru and Premier Cru sites in the Champagne region.

The chalk and limestone cellars at Krug reveal the recently harvested barrels of fer-



ANNETTE ALVAREZ-PETERS

**In the traditional method, Champagne is placed in *pupitres*, or racks, to age.**

menting 2006 base wines and scores of bottles lying in state until the unusually rich and opulent Krug style is achieved.

Our next destination is Veuve Clicquot, whose bottles wear the famous yellow Champagne label. Our tasting starts with La Grande Dame Rosé, followed by various varieties of Champagne, from La Grande Dame to Demi-Sec. Simply wonderful!

At the offices of Veuve Clicquot, winemaker François Chirumberro leads us through a review of the three grapes of Champagne. He uses examples of the 2005 vintage from various communes to identify fruit quality and levels of acidity and structure, and to try to determine how the different wines might evolve to determine future blends.

The company has an intriguing history. Veuve, French for “widow,” refers to Madame Nicole Barbe

Ponsardin, who was left widowed at the age of 27 but assumed control of her husband's company and grew it into a world-famous label. In 1818, Veuve Clicquot invented the process of *remuage*, a major innovation in producing cleaner, fresher and more evocative fine wines.

A walk down a steep staircase leads to the equally impressive chalk caves of Veuve Clicquot, housing not only tens of thousands of aging bottles, but also the first *pupitres* used for *remuage*. What sights, smells and history!

## The making of a classic

The last stop is Verzenay, where Costco's private-label Kirkland Signature Champagne is bottled. The Champagne is a non-vintage Brut, which is dominated by the Chardonnay grape. A non-vintage Brut contains less than 1.5 percent sugar and is considered very dry (compared to an Extra Dry, which is off-dry with 1.2 to 2 percent sugar, or a Demi-Sec, which is sweet, with 3.3 to 5 percent sugar).

Brut Champagne is best consumed as an aperitif or with a meal. Kirkland Signature Champagne is elegant, lively and crisp on the palate, with notes of citrus and green apple. One-third of Costco's blend comes from Grand Cru and Premier Cru vineyards, which is an extremely high percentage for a non-vintage private-label Brut Champagne.

## Wine that sparkles

Many other regions have adopted the traditional method of secondary fermentation in the bottle to create a sparkling wine: California sparkling (some brands have been grandfathered in to use the term California Champagne), Australian sparkling and Crémant de Loire, to name a few. Spain's traditional-method sparkling wine, called Cava, uses traditional Spanish white grapes, and some winemakers are adding Chardonnay to their blend. Italy uses a different method in which the secondary fermentation takes place in a tank to produce a sweet, low-alcohol sparkling wine.

Whichever Champagne or sparkling wine you choose, always serve it cold and open it carefully. Although the sound of a loud pop seems festive, the sound should be more of a soft whisper. Just grip the cork firmly and turn the bottle slowly at a 45-degree angle.

Enjoy your bubbly, not just for celebrations, but as an aperitif with a variety of foods, or because it will make you smile. Here's to your good health and happiness! ☞

*Annette Alvarez-Peters oversees Costco's national wine, spirits and beer-buying program.*

## Bubbly at Costco\*

Dom Pérignon 1998 Brut Champagne Item #21006

Kirkland Signature Non-Vintage Brut Champagne Item #942108

Veuve Clicquot Non-Vintage Brut Champagne Item #85684

Feuillatte Non-Vintage Brut Champagne Item #276215

Moët White Star Non-Vintage Champagne Item #21014

Domaine Chandon Non-Vintage Blanc de Noir Item #22844

\*Not all Champagnes and sparkling wines are available at all locations. See [costco.com](http://costco.com) for more choices.

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# Close the door to identity theft during the holiday season

WITH THE HOLIDAY shopping season in full swing, many shoppers can be at risk for identity theft—often through the loss of credit cards or other important pieces of identification. Give yourself the gift of peace of mind by guarding against one of the fastest-growing types of crime in the country.

Here are a few tips to help you guard against identity theft.

🔒 Do not carry your Social Security card, passport or birth certificate while you're out shopping. The loss of a Social Security card—or the theft of that number—could allow identity thieves to set up new credit-card accounts in your name, but at a different address, that may go undetected.

🔒 Carry only the ID cards and credit cards that are absolutely necessary for that shopping trip. Credit cards should be signed with “See picture ID” on the back in permanent ink.



🔒 Look out for “shoulder surfers,” people who hover near shoppers and watch them as they carry out transactions at ATMs or checkout counters.

🔒 Use a crosscut shredder to safely dispose of tax-related and financial papers, as well as mail such as credit or calling-plan offers.

🔒 Remember, cordless phones are essentially short-range radios whose broadcasts can be monitored by strangers. When using a cell phone in a public place, be careful what you divulge; wait until you're at home to call in an order for last-minute holiday gifts.

🔒 Minimize the information you share, especially on checks. Don't include your Social Security number or driver's license number on checks. When writing a check, include only the last four digits of your account number or Social Security number on the “for” line.—Stephanie E. Ponder

## How Costco can help

ACCORDING TO the Better Business Bureau, monitoring your credit-card accounts is a good precaution to take to detect fraudulent activity. For as little as \$7.49 per month for Executive Members and \$9.49 for Gold Star and Business members, CreditProtectX3<sup>SM</sup> helps protect against financial harm caused by criminals who tamper with your credit and steal your identity.

“Taking advantage of this service is such an easy choice to make,” says Ed Murphy, manager for member services at Costco. “For such a small fee, you can't afford not to protect yourself and your finances.”

The service includes a comprehensive early warning system that monitors credit files for potential fraudulent activity and reports any changes directly to you. For more information, visit [costco.com](http://costco.com) and click on “Services.”—SEP

December Service of the Month

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07EX0219 12/06

# Connecting online

*THE COSTCO CONNECTION* prides itself on offering advice and information for Costco members across a wide spectrum of topics and products. There's a lot in every issue. But *The Connection's Online Edition* offers even more.

The *Online Edition* is not just a mirror image of the print publication. "We can offer content online we just don't have room for in the print edition," says David Wight, online editor. "For instance, this month, our cover story had room only for Ron Howard's directing career, but in the interview we covered his acting years as well. Online, we can feature that as bonus content."

Here's a look at what you'll find in the *Online Edition*.

**Book Look:** A monthly list of book signings in local warehouses and special book giveaways.

**Special resource guides:** Helpful tips on buying diamonds and digital cameras; electronic versions of the five Costco cookbooks; and gas station and hearing center locators.

**Food Safety Connection:** Tips on safely storing and preparing foods.

**Kirkland Signature™ Wine Connection:** Details on Kirkland Signature wines, including vineyard information and winemaking techniques.

**Costco Connection archive:** The past two years of issues as well as supplemental content for articles.

The *Online Edition* also features interactive tools to help you share information or find the products or services mentioned in articles. If you see an item that might be of interest to a friend or relative, a "Share" button facilitates easy e-mailing, featuring thumbnail pictures of the pages. And, as you would expect, any story referring to items available on [costco.com](http://costco.com) provides links for

## Connecting

To find the *Online Edition*, go to [costco.com](http://costco.com), look under "In the Warehouse" and click on "Costco magazine," or look on the navigation bar at the bottom of the page.



easy purchase. (Items marked "Warehouse Only" are linked to the warehouse locator to help you find the closest Costco.)

The environmentally conscious can sign up on the [costco.com](http://costco.com) home page for weekly e-mail offers and receive a link to the *Online Edition*. You can opt out of receiving the print edition by filling out the form in the magazine, mailing or faxing it or e-mailing to [memberservice@costco.com](mailto:memberservice@costco.com). Get more info and functionality and save a tree at the same time!—Steve Fisher



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Getting "juiced" at a Costco in Colorado.

## Getting a charge out of Costco

A RECENT DOCUMENTARY posed the question "Who killed the electric car?" But for the thousands of electric-vehicle (EV) drivers on the roads, the pronouncement of the EV's demise is premature. And Costco is helping to keep the ecological dream alive with the installation of two chargers at the new warehouse in Gypsum, Colorado.

The biggest problem facing EV drivers is the lack of charging stations. While EVs average 60 to 120 miles on a charge—how does your gas-slurping vehicle compare to that?—the fact remains that they have to be recharged, and charging stations are few and far between.

Steve Hawkins, general manager of Vail's Mountain Haus at the Covered Bridge, in Vail, Colorado, had used electric chargers at Costco warehouses in California. When he heard about the new warehouse being built in neighboring Gypsum, he made a few calls and was ultimately referred to Costco's Ed Fitzgerald, automobile sales administrator. "I told him we had not planned on installing chargers at Gypsum, and there was no budget for them," says Ed. "But if [Vail's Mountain Haus] was willing to donate, I'd see what I could do."

Hawkins purchased and delivered the charging stations in October, and Costco installed them two days later. "It's a perfect example of what can be accomplished when business and community work together," says Ed.

Costco offers 90 charging stations at 64 locations. Most of the stations are in California, with a handful in Arizona, New York and Georgia. (To see if there are any charging stations at your local warehouse, check the Specialty Services grid on page 76.)

The process couldn't be simpler. Members park in reserved spaces, attach special paddles and head into the warehouse. By the time their shopping is done, their car should be, too.

Just another reason to say, "Charge it!" at Costco.—Steve Fisher



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07EX0215 11/06



# Keeping your business in checks

ONE OF THE GREAT things about Costco's services is the way they save small businesses money on everyday needs. Take, for example, checks.

Why use checks? They offer easy record keeping and payment security. Another reason to use checks is the ease and convenience of Costco's Check Printing service. The checks are compatible with all accounting software.

According to Synergestics Research Corporation, checks remain the largest non-cash payment type among all available options. Additionally, 87 percent of small-business owners say they use checks as their primary

method of payment—followed by credit cards and cash. Nearly 85 percent of those same people say they plan to use checks to the same extent during the next year.

For about half of what most banks charge, Costco members can order personal, computer and manual business checks. Business checks and forms can be ordered for continuous-feed, laser and ink-jet printers. Laser checks and forms can be printed with a company logo. And Executive Members save an additional 20 percent off the already reduced prices of all products.

Costco's Check Printing service exceeds

financial-institution security standards, such as safety-stain paper that indicates any tampering and a micro-print signature line that becomes unreadable if copied or altered.

"Ordering checks through the check-printing service is not only cost effective and easy, but also secure," says Erin Hoag, consumer services coordinator at Costco. "If you are concerned about delivery and identity theft, Costco's Check Printing service now offers, for a few extra dollars, a signature-required shipping option."

Costco's Check Printing service also offers tax forms for small-business owners who keep accounting services in-house. All of the products offered are Internal Revenue Service approved and compatible with all of today's popular software. All W-2 and 1099 forms can be purchased individually or packaged in bundles that include matching, self-sealing, double-window envelopes. Like the checks, tax forms are available for laser, ink-jet and continuous-feed printers.—Stephanie E. Ponder

## Connecting

For more information or to order checks and other business forms, visit [costco.com](http://costco.com) and click on "Services," or call toll-free 1-866-393-6044.

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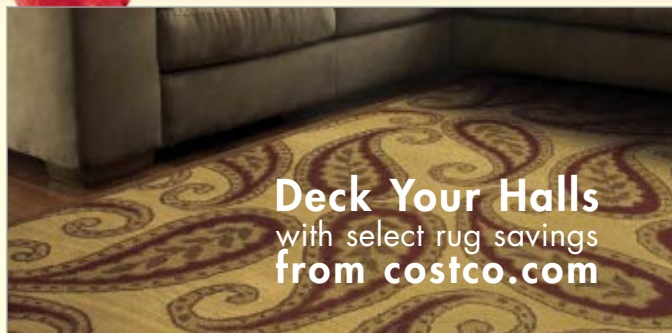
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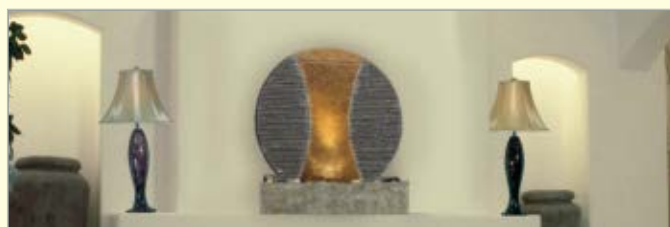
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**Moen Banbury Stainless Steel One-Handle Kitchen Faucet**

With pull-out spout. **\$99.99 After \$20 OFF** #150958

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**Ameriware® Professional Non-Stick 12-Piece Cookware Set**

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**Carrying Case**



**Printer Kit**

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1/5 cut letter. Model #ESS42592  
**\$19.42**  
#115747

**Eldon SimpliFILE  
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**Brother Network  
Monolaser AIO**  
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**\$369.99**  
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**Brother Monochrome  
Laser Printer**  
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**Rubbermaid Econocleat Chair Mat with Lip**  
**36" x 48"** Model #RUB64422 **\$25.37**  
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**46" x 60" without Lip** Model #RUB64429 **\$37.84**  
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**Eldon Big Cup  
Desktop Organizer**  
Black. Model #RUB02376  
**\$5.33** #626904

**Rolodex Expressions  
Wire Mesh Stackable  
Front-Load Letter Tray**  
Model #ROL22211  
**\$6.24** #626989



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2006 COSTCO.COM





Harry and David's  
Chocolate Caramel  
Squares (at [costco.com](http://costco.com)).

# Catching the **Harry and David** holiday spirit

## Gift baskets and more at Costco

THE HARRY AND DAVID folks do food gift baskets right. They grow their own premium, luxurious Royal Riviera® Pears and Oregold® Peaches; make their secret-recipe namesake gourmet cakes, cookies, popcorn treats and chocolates; and design all packaging.

This year these gifted geniuses are also meticulously hand-packing and wrapping exclusively designed Harry and David gift baskets for Costco warehouses, plus gift baskets, gift towers and signature Fruit of the Month Club collections for [costco.com](http://costco.com). Here's a look at this committed-to-excellence company, as well as descriptions of Harry and David products available this season in Costco warehouses and at [costco.com](http://costco.com).

### The Harry and David dream

Harry and David personifies the American dream. The company was founded by two tenacious Oregon farm boys whose family was on the brink of bankruptcy. They traveled to New York and San Francisco during the Great Depression to peddle their prized pears in an unheard-of manner—as Christmas gifts of fruit by mail.

The brothers' perseverance and ingenuity and the extraordinary quality of their fruit secured lasting customers. Eleanor Roosevelt

became a fan, as did my grandmother and my mom. In fact, the first kiwi I ever ate came from a Harry and David gift package.

I recently visited the company's 50-acre campus, still situated on the family's original pear orchard in Oregon's verdant southern Rogue Valley. My first impression is a company exuding employee pride, commitment to land stewardship, permanence and tradition.

Bill Williams, the company's president and CEO, is part of my welcome wagon. I quickly discover his 18 years with Harry and David are small potatoes compared to many others who count their years of employment at three or four decades. It is not uncommon to find two or three generations of family members working side by side. (I am reminded of Old World artisan families who pass their skills from generation to generation.)

How did this new partnership with Costco come about? "Reputation is everything," Williams explains. "Harry and David was the first national gift basket company and continues as an industry leader. We looked at Costco's ethics, commitment to its employees and demand for quality and saw a perfect match, value for value."

I take a tour and find that no detail is too insignificant. I observe basket assemblers hand-trimming errant strands of nesting material while others whirl hair dryers to smooth out shrink-wrapped corners. In the candy kitchen, irresistible

## BuyingSmart

Consumer reporter  
**Pat Volchok** gives  
a behind-the-scenes  
look at Costco  
products and services.  
Send your questions to:  
**[buyingsmart@  
costco.com](mailto:buyingsmart@costco.com)**



Pat Volchok, left, gives Patricia Colley, a longtime Harry and David employee, a hand at the company's Oregon headquarters.





FRANCE FREEMAN

#### Value packs:

At left, Harry and David's Favorite Treats; at right, Harry and David's Sweet and Savory (both at warehouses only).

aromas fill the room and chocolatiers give a final hand-dusting of cocoa to award-winning luxurious chocolate truffles. Elsewhere, Moose Munchers busily add whole, fresh, U.S. Grade No. 1 almonds and cashews and slabs of real butter to my all-time favorite caramel confection.

### Gift baskets in the warehouses

Tess Wilkins of Costco corporate foods and her buying team spent the last two years personally designing the Costco warehouse Harry and David gourmet gift basket program.

Selections were narrowed to a few extraordinary baskets with the highest Harry and David specifications. Each offers an easy gift-giving solution at great savings, plus the Costco and Harry and David stamps of quality.

"Harry and David is another Costco first," says Tess. "We recognize great gift baskets are best created by those with years of know-how, and no one knows more about this specialized business than Harry and David. This is why for 2006 Costco is the only retailer with an expanded offering of exquisitely indulgent Harry and David gift baskets in the \$29.99 to \$99.99 range."

All baskets come with gift tags. They make terrific business, corporate, family and friend gift-giving solutions. If you wish to place a large order, talk directly with a warehouse manager or consider [costco.com](http://costco.com)'s selections.

Costco warehouses and [costco.com](http://costco.com) also carry the remarkable Harry and David home-style Moose Munch caramel popcorn. Fluffy and buttery tasting, Costco's 40-ounce boxed version is made even better with 50 percent

caramel corn and 50 percent enrobed milk chocolate over caramel corn. (*Oh my.*)

### Harry and David treats on [costco.com](http://costco.com)

Costco.com offers several delicious Harry and David gift baskets, including perishables in need of special handling. Offered in rugged, jiggle-proof shipping containers and guaranteed to arrive fresh, online Harry and David products include baskets, gift towers and Fruit of the Month Club selections. These are all offered at Costco's great prices. Shipping and handling are included. (Alas, delivery is not available to Alaska or Hawaii.)

Many Harry and David gift baskets and Fruit of the Month selections at [costco.com](http://costco.com) have a common ingredient (besides quality): Harry and David's famous, sweet, sun-ripened Royal Riviera pears. These rare winter pears are a hallmark of the holidays with their sublime flavor, lush juiciness and creamy texture.

Harjit Grewall,

David chocolate truffles and caramel squares are also available online.)

I am just wild about Harry and David's gift towers—boxes of assorted treats. They feature delicious confections from the company's kitchen, with some including fresh fruit from the orchards outside Harry and David's back door.

Receiving a gift of many boxes is great fun. I suggest purchasing a few extra Harry and David gift towers and dividing them up for inexpensive hostess gifts. The towers are also widely used as edible centerpieces for large family gatherings, out-of-towner gifts for weddings or bar/bat mitzvahs and instant smorgasbords at the office.

### The original fruit club

Harjit notes that [costco.com](http://costco.com) is the only partnered "e-tailer" to offer Harry and David's signature Fruit of the Month Club.

Available in three-, five-, eight- and 12-month collections, each is a natural, health-conscious gift featuring some of the best handpicked fruit available. All fruits are hand-packaged to perfection and guaranteed ripe and ready to eat. Visit [costco.com](http://costco.com) for the particulars.

One last important note about Harry and David's fabulous products at Costco: Don't wait until the last minute to make your purchase. Supplies of some of these gift baskets and other products in the warehouses and at [costco.com](http://costco.com) are limited. That's natural when your products require top-quality ingredients.

Wishing you and yours a happy and peaceful new year. ☺

#### ONLINE BONUS!

Visit [costco.com](http://costco.com) and click on "Costco magazine" and go to "More Buying Smart" for information on Harry and David Costco offerings, Harry and David "family" recipes and tips on other baskets offered by [costco.com](http://costco.com).

## The Harry and David quality difference

### Chocolate Moose Munch

There is no better example of the Harry and David quality difference than its Chocolate Moose Munch. Here's a look.

### Harry and David ingredients

Proprietary premium chocolate blend  
Customized popcorn  
U.S. No. 1 grade, large whole cashews  
U.S. No. 1 grade, large whole almonds  
Grade A light amber honey  
Grade A butter

### A competitor's ingredients

Standard commercial chocolate  
Standard-run popping corn  
Cashew halves and pieces  
Almond halves and pieces  
Sugar  
Butter/margarine blend

# Seasoned greetings



There's no such thing as too much Harry and David.

**By Pat Volchok**

WAREHOUSES AND COSTCO.COM have a vast variety of holiday food gifts. Look for international cheese baskets, Italian gourmet cheeses, hand-dipped chocolate-covered strawberries, Godiva chocolates and wine baskets online (shipped to select states where approved). Prices range from \$34.99 to \$219.19. Some gift baskets are pre-wrapped for Hanukkah as well as Christmas (hurray!), and there's even a kosher offering.



STEVE JOHNSON





## Here's the scoop on Costco's offerings, as well as a few tasty recipes.

### Cream Cheese Kicker

8 oz. cream cheese, softened      1/2 jar Pepper & Onion Relish

Mix cream cheese and relish until smooth. For a delicious twist, add drained canned pineapple. Option: Add chopped walnuts or roll in crushed walnuts.

### Chicken Enchilada Soup

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil	1/2 cup cream
1/4 cup chopped onion	Salt to taste
1 clove garlic, minced	1 cup diced cooked chicken breast (optional)
3/4 cup Pepper & Onion Relish	3/4 cup Monterey Jack cheese, grated
1 1/2 cups chicken broth or stock	

Heat oil in a medium-size pot over medium heat and sauté onion and garlic for approximately 5 to 8 minutes. Add relish and chicken broth, turn heat to low and cook with pot covered for 15 minutes. Add cream, salt and chicken (optional), and simmer another 8 to 10 minutes over low heat. Stir in cheese and serve hot.

### The Greatest Appetizer Ever

1 lb. Monterey Jack cheese, grated	1/2 cup Pepper & Onion Relish, drained
1 lb. cheddar cheese, grated	2 cans (4 oz.) chopped green chile peppers, well drained
6 eggs, lightly beaten	
1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk	

Preheat oven to 350° F. In a large bowl, combine the cheeses, eggs, evaporated milk and relish. Line a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with the chiles. Pour cheese mixture over the chiles and bake at 350° F for 40 minutes. Cool pan for 5 minutes before cutting into small square pieces. Serve warm or at room temperature—tastes great either way.

### Spicy Confetti Rice

1 package (14 oz.) instant rice	3 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 lb. ground chuck	1 can (11 oz.) fiesta corn (canned corn mixed with peppers and other spices)
1 tsp. salt	3/4 cup tomato juice
1 can (14 1/2 oz.) beef broth	1 jar Pepper & Onion Relish
1 can (28 oz.) tomatoes, chopped, with juice	

Cook rice according to package directions; set aside. In a large pan, brown ground chuck over medium-high heat. Add salt, broth, tomatoes and cornstarch. Stir while cooking over medium heat, until mixture starts to bubble. Reduce heat and add the corn, tomato juice and relish. Simmer for 30 minutes. Combine the rice and the sauce mixture in a large casserole and serve.



## Harry and David Baskets

EVEN THOUGH not all baskets are available in all warehouses, you can't go wrong with any of the Harry and David Costco baskets.

### Harry and David \$29.99 Favorite Treats

- 10 items totaling 72.5 ounces
- Includes Moose Munch, apple butter, classic scone mix, chocolate cherries and cocoa mix

### Harry and David \$39.99 Gourmet Snack Basket

- 12 items totaling 91.5 ounces
- Includes Moose Munch, Pepper & Onion Relish, chocolate almonds, milk truffles, peach salsa and honey-roasted cashews/peanuts

### Harry and David \$49.99 Sweet & Savory Basket

- 14 items totaling 106.5 ounces
- Includes Moose Munch, blackberry and strawberry preserves, Pepper & Onion Relish, mini mint and raspberry truffles, chocolate toffee pistachios and chocolate almonds

### Harry and David \$79.99 Bountiful Basket

- 17 items totaling 143.75 ounces
- Includes chocolate cherries, smoked salmon, assorted Moose Munch and chocolate truffle confections, chocolate almonds, scone mix and more
- Available in all warehouses

### Harry and David \$99.99 Grand Assortment Basket

- 19 items totaling 158.5 ounces
- Includes truffle tub, European cocoa, caramel assortment, raspberry galettes, chocolate cherries, olive crackers, strawberry preserves, Pepper & Onion Relish, crackers, chocolate cashews and smoked salmon.

And don't forget the large, stand-alone boxes of Moose Munch in warehouses, as well as all the Costco.com Harry and David gifts!

(Prices may vary due to shipping and handling.)

PRODUCT PHOTOS: FRANCE FREEMAN

# What's new

Exciting products  
coming soon

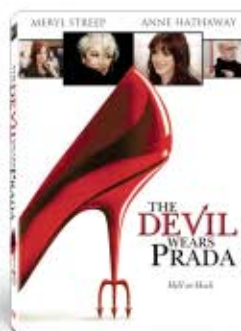
**A. JVC 56" Wide-Screen HDTV** This unit features an exclusive three-chip D-ILA producing more than 6 million pixels for a true 1080p, full HD resolution capability, built-in digital and analog tuners and digital-cable-ready off-air HD where available (antenna required). Includes matching TV stand. Item #435697 **WAREHOUSE ONLY**

**B. Nikon Coolpix P4 Digital Camera** The Coolpix P4 features 8.1 megapixels, 3.5x optical Zoom-Nikkor glass lens, 4x digital zoom, 2.5" LCD screen, Vibration Reduction-optical image stabilization, 16 scene modes and continuous shooting at 1.8 frames per second. Includes rechargeable lithium-ion battery, charger, wrist strap, audio/video cable, USB cable and PictureProject CD-ROM. Item #134219 **WAREHOUSE ONLY**

**C. Western Digital Passport Portable Hard Drive with Carrying Case** Pack up your office files and take them home. Carry thousands of songs or pictures. These drives are simple to use, light and easy to carry and require no power adapter—they are powered directly through the USB cable. Includes sync and encryption and Google search software. Item #593699, #493699 **WAREHOUSE AND COSTCO.COM**

**D. Miami Vice DVD** Director Michael Mann is back on the streets with this updated big-screen adaptation of the TV show he created back in the '80s. Jamie Foxx and Colin Farrell go deep into the dangerous and violent Miami underworld, where each job could be the last as they try to take down a deadly global drug cartel. Item #151684 **WAREHOUSE AND COSTCO.COM**

**E. The Devil Wears Prada DVD** Based on the bestselling novel by Lauren Weisberger, this film stars Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway. As assistant to impossibly demanding New York fashion magazine editor Miranda Priestly (Streep), young Andy Sachs (Hathaway) had landed a job that a million girls would die for. Unfortunately, her heaven-sent appointment as Miranda's whipping girl just might be the death of her. Item #153087 **WAREHOUSE AND COSTCO.COM**



## Shred the street

IF YOU EVER WANTED the sensation of snowboarding, surfing and skateboarding at the same time, you'll love the Wave street-surfing board and its two 360-degree rotating wheels.

"The Wave features front and rear flexible panels that are controlled by a spring-oriented torsion bar that gives you the ability to do precision 360s, carve downhill and even ride uphill," says Costco buyer Shane Williams.

Besides being fun and easy to ride, the Wave improves balance, strength and agility, along with working core muscles. However, the real value is in the Wave packaged set, available only at Costco.

"Our unit comes with an extra set of wheels, an extra foot deck and cones for setting up an obstacle course or blocking off a cul-de-sac for safety," Shane adds. Item #134796

**WAREHOUSE ONLY**







Extra wheels, foot deck and street cones packaged exclusively for Costco.



F

**F. Murano Art Glass, Limoges Porcelain and Etched Italian Crystal Perfume Bottles** Each piece of Murano art glass is individually handcrafted and mouth-blown by the finest artists on the island of Murano in Venice, Italy. Each piece comes with a certificate of authenticity. Since 1768, Limoges porcelain has been made in Limoges, France. Each piece is completely handmade, signed by the artist and part of a limited numbered edition. The crystal perfume bottles are handcrafted in a very small factory in Italy. Each one is individually handcrafted and then hand-etched with various floral motifs and silver accents. Items vary by warehouse. Limited quantity available. Various item numbers.  
**WAREHOUSE ONLY**

## A truly fresh olive oil

TOP CHEFS AND FOOD LOVERS wait anxiously each year for the arrival of the annual first pressing of extra-virgin olive oil. The fresher, the better.

There's good news for olive oil connoisseurs at Costco this year: The prized *novello* extra-virgin olive oil—Kirkland Signature™ Extra Virgin Toscano—will be available in late December. This fresh olive oil comes directly from growers in Tuscany, who handpick the olives in late October and press them within 24 hours of harvest.

"Kirkland Signature Toscano displays a full-bodied, elegant aroma with a distinctive, rich, fruity overtone," says Tess Wilkins, the Costco buyer who oversees the program. "The vintage date on each bottle is proof of its freshness."

Try it as a dip with rustic bread, as a dressing on insalata Caprese or grilled in bruschetta.  
Item #22863 **WAREHOUSE ONLY**



### G. Nirmala's Kitchen Exotic Salt Collection

This unique gift set offers three flavors of salt from Hawaii, Cyprus and Australia, all enclosed in a natural-bamboo keepsake box. Item #120940  
**COSTCO.COM ONLY**



H

**H. Kirkland Signature Panko-Breaded Shrimp** Hand-breaded with premium panko crumbs, these delicious, top-quality, chemical-free shrimp are a quick and easy appetizer or main course. Fry right out of the box; ready in about two minutes.  
Item #27900 **WAREHOUSE ONLY**



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- Free personalized message
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- Convenient — pick up at warehouse while you shop
- Orders ready the next day



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07AB0301 11/06



Disney

You're going to need a bigger stocking.



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07EX0218 12/06

A participation fee has been paid by the participating dealers. All new cars arranged for sale are subject to availability and a price prearranged with the selling franchised new car dealer. Certain vehicles may be excluded from the program. Costco and its affiliates do not sell automobiles or negotiate individual transactions. 1206 A0212 CN



## MEMBER SERVICES

# Update

Current news for Costco members

**SERVICE OF THE MONTH** features business and personal services offering exceptional value to Costco members.

### MEMBER FEEDBACK

## The gift of ShareBuilder

MANY COSTCO members have discovered the fun of educating young family members about investing while saving for the future via a ShareBuilder custodial account. It's easy to set up an automatic weekly or monthly ShareBuilder plan as a gift, with no account minimums and low transaction fees being attractive features. Here's what two members had to say.



*I had a custodial account while growing up that interested me in investing at an early age, so I thought it would be educational for my daughters as well as a good vehicle for accumulating college funds and general savings.*

*The accounts started as Christmas gifts a couple of years ago. My daughters have become interested in not just how much we're investing, but if we're investing in spiders. Just what are spiders?*

Jeff Grandstaff  
Clarkston, Michigan

*I have six custodial accounts: two for my children and another four for nieces and nephews. One niece is 19 and now manages her own account. My 13-year-old son has taken an interest in directing his account and making choices. My daughter is too young to be interested, and the other accounts are long-distance situations. I just like knowing they will have some*

*savings when they get to college.*

*I like the ease of the account management—how simple it is to adjust preferences. ShareBuilder has grown from being a basic service to a fuller, friendly and easy-to-use service.*

Stephanie Brooks  
Coral Springs, Florida

As a Service of the Month, ShareBuilder is offering additional value. Costco members who open an account in December and trade by February 4, 2007, receive a Costco Cash card (\$90 for Executive Members, \$70 for Business/Gold Star members). Cards will be sent to the address on the ShareBuilder account four to six weeks after the first trade. Offer is limited to one per Costco member or custodial beneficiary.

For more information or to open an account, visit [www.sharebuilder.com/costcooffer](http://www.sharebuilder.com/costcooffer).

Testimonials above are from actual ShareBuilder customers but are not intended to imply that every consumer has had or will have a similar experience and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation by ShareBuilder. Results can and do vary. ShareBuilder is offered through ShareBuilder Securities Corporation, member NASD/SIPC, a subsidiary of ShareBuilder Corporation. ShareBuilder Securities Corporation is a registered broker/dealer that is not affiliated with Costco.

### SERVICE UPDATE

## Web design just got easier

IF YOU'VE SPENT time shopping online, you've likely encountered a wide range of Web site designs. Some look and work on a very professional level, while others have an amateur homemade appearance with less than understandable functionality.

Don't be discouraged: Everything you need to create a professional-looking site is available through Costco's Web Hosting & Design Tools service, provided by ValueWeb.

New to the program is the CreateIt! Online tool, bringing even greater ease of use, speed and design range to a service that was already a strong value.

Here are the CreateIt! Online features in a nutshell.

- \* Ready to use at sign-up, nothing to download or install
- \* Creates up to 20 Web pages, no need to know HTML
- \* Thousands of design possibilities
- \* Update site from anywhere via the Internet
- \* Add Flash animation introduction to match site design
- \* Easily upload and edit photos
- \* Web page editor is as easy to use as a word processor
- \* Capture e-mail addresses with Guestbook tool
- \* Other features include visitor counter and feedback form

For additional information about ValueWeb services and a CreateIt! Online tool demonstration, go to "Web Site Hosting & Design Tools" at [costco.com](http://costco.com) under "Services."



## Online entertainment ticketing service



Check out the savings on event tickets available through Costco's Online Entertainment Ticketing. Go to [costco.com](http://costco.com) and click on "Services."



### SERVICE UPDATE

## New underwriter for Ameriprise policies

COSTCO MEMBERS who have a policy with Ameriprise Auto & Home Insurance take note: As a result of the spin-off of Ameriprise from American Express Company, policies will now be underwritten by IDS Property Casualty Insurance Company instead of AMEX Assurance Company.

The actual insurance group has not changed. Ameriprise Auto & Home Insurance is no longer owned by American Express. The change of underwriting companies will not affect underwriting, coverage or billing/payment methods.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please call Ameriprise Auto & Home Insurance toll-free at 1-800-901-1048 and select the service department.



# Just another day at Costco

BY KATHLEEN BOWLING

WE'D BEEN OUT OF TOILET PAPER for so long that we had depleted all suitable substitutes—Kleenex, napkins, fabric softener sheets. So, by myself (Lord knows I don't take my family on such ventures), armed with only a standard-size shopping cart, I bravely traversed the maze of shrink-wrapped pallets at Costco. By the time I reached the industrial-size detergent aisle, my cart looked like the Grinch's sled.

From there, I had to weigh each purchasing decision, not by price or need, but by what could be tucked into the tiny crevices that remained accessible. Tofu fit better than paper towels, so I crammed it in. We didn't need



three pounds of Preparation H, but the tube was just the right size to wedge behind the dehydrated onions. By the time I was done, Houdini wouldn't have been able to find space to shove a toothpick.

At checkout the cashier said, "I was just noticing that you might benefit from becoming an Executive Member." He held up my membership card and a laptop that revealed year-to-date purchases approaching the gross national product. "We'll prorate the fee for you. You'll start earning rebates right away," I agreed.

But when I arrived at the counter, I saw something that rocked my world: a camera. Only then did it hit me that I hadn't had time to shower, brush my hair or apply makeup that morning.



"You aren't going to take my picture, are you?" I asked.

"Yes, Mrs. Bowling." Click. "You look fine." In addition to wild hair and a greasy face, my new card revealed dark circles under closed eyes. My mouth was open. A shadow blocked two of my bottom teeth. I looked like a crazy, drunken hillbilly.

On my way to the car, 36 cans of Diet Dr Pepper abandoned my cart, shooting aspartame napalm at my legs. When I finally reached the SUV, I looked like the victim of a volcanic eruption.

Since a 44-pound bag of dog food took up all available cargo space, I freed the flame-broiled chicken from its plastic prison and flung it into the passenger seat. I ripped open the Yoplait variety-pack and shoved cups into the glove compartment. It wasn't until I pulled away from the parking lot that it hit me. I forgot to buy the toilet paper. [E]

*Costco member Kathleen Bowling (www.bowlingwrite.com) is a freelance writer who lives in Running Springs, California.*

**UPDATE:** Following publication of this article in December 2006, it was determined that Craig Moscarel was misdiagnosed, according to his father, Ken. Craig did not have Tourette's syndrome. Instead, he suffered from a tic disorder, possibly triggered by a strep virus. Unlike Tourette's, tic disorders are a transient, nonhereditary condition, not a lifelong one. Ken Moscarel reports that Craig, now in college, has been symptom free for years: "If you met him today, you would never know he had tics as a youngster. He outgrew them."—Ed.

## A winning combo

THREE YEARS AGO, Craig Moscarel was one unhappy little boy. The third-grader from Sammamish, Washington, was struggling with Tourette's syndrome, an incurable neurological disorder, which caused him to utter inappropriate words and shake involuntarily.

At a loss for what to do, parents Ken and Liz Moscarel, Costco members, called nearby Skyline High School and were referred to Simi Reynolds, a star athlete who has a younger brother with a disability. Reynolds agreed to mentor Craig, and the relationship benefited them both.

Athletes for Kids—a youth mentorship program in which high school athletes help elementary school children with disabili-



**The family that plays together, gets paid together**

**COSTCO MEMBER** John Blaine and his family love to play games. For years Blaine, his wife and their four children played various board games, adapting them to suit their whims. It's only natural that a family "known to make a game out of anything," as Blaine says, created a business to sell the games they created.

The title that launched New Hampshire-based Goldbrick Games, which Blaine, 50, co-founded with his 29-year-old son, Seth, is the fast-paced card game Perpetual Commotion. It has received five iParenting Media



ties feel better about themselves—was born.

"We found that athletes can have the most life-changing impact on children at that age," says Ken. "The kids look up to them as heroes."

Mentor admission to the program is limited to sophomores and juniors who play competitive sports in high school (which requires a minimum grade-point average) and want to make a difference in a child's life.

The admissions process includes training from staff and past mentors on how to work with kids with issues such as hyperactivity, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. In addition, applicants must pass Washington State Patrol criminal history and background checks.

Participants spend one day a month playing video games, watching and playing sports, riding bikes, going to the park and just hanging out together.

Today, five western Washington high schools participate in Athletes for Kids ([www.athletesforkids.org](http://www.athletesforkids.org)). They hope to expand the program, which has helped hundreds of children so far, beyond the Seattle area, with the help of a \$10,000 grant they received as the winner of the 2005 Qwest Spirit Award for Nonprofit of the Year.

—Shana McNally

## Little mensch

INSPIRING STORIES are contagious when they reach the right set of ears. When Costco member Niesa Silverberg of Millstone Township, New Jersey, read a news article to her then-7-year-old son, Jake, about an 11-year-old girl who raised money for the Philadelphia Children's Hospital, he was deeply moved. When she finished the story, Jake said, "I want to do something like that for my birthday. Would that be OK?"

Together, Niesa and Jake researched organizations and food banks in their community to which Jake might contribute. Jake chose Foster and Adoptive Family Services of Monmouth County. And, on September 5, for his birthday, Jake asked his family and friends to donate toys or money for the more than 150 children connected with the organization who otherwise may not receive anything special this holiday season.

So far, he has collected 50 toys and \$260.

"Jake and I will drop off all the gifts on Saturday, December 23, at a holiday party for the kids," explains Silverberg. "We will be collecting presents and money up until about a week or so prior to the party. This just proves that, no matter who you are, you can make a big difference if you're willing to step up to the challenges before you."

Foster and Adoptive Services of Monmouth County can be reached by phone at 1-800-222-0047 or through its Web site, [www.FAFS.org](http://www.FAFS.org). —Will Fifield



Jake Silverberg, 8, with toys he's collected for children at the Foster and Adoptive Services of Monmouth County, in New Jersey.

## We want to hear from you

IF YOU HAVE a note, photo or story to share (it should be about Costco or Costco members in some way), you can send it to "The Member Connection," The Costco Connection, P.O. Box 34088, Seattle, WA 98124-1088, or e-mail to [connection@costco.com](mailto:connection@costco.com) with "The Member Connection" in the subject line. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

Awards—designed to identify products parents can feel good about purchasing for their family—since its release in 2004.

Blaine, who spent more than 25 years working in the field of technology, including 11 years with Sun Microsystems, says that he's seen a resurgence of interest in board games. Wanting to tap into that interest, but also hoping to create something more interactive than most games, Goldbrick Games released Debate This! last year.

In the game, players are asked to discuss subjects ranging

from social norms to sports. One player acts as an independent judge who chooses the winning argument based on creativity and persuasiveness. While the game has been popular with Toastmasters International and academic groups, its appeal is spreading into more casual gatherings of families and friends. And Debate This! recently won an iParenting Media Award of its own.

For more information about the games or to find a retailer, visit [www.goldbrickgames.com](http://www.goldbrickgames.com).

—Stephanie E. Ponder

## Adam@Home by Brian Basset





# special events

## DECEMBER '06

New and exciting products available  
at warehouses for a limited time only

Click [here](#) for a list of special events by region.

### CONNECTICUT

#### Brookfield

Dec 20-Jan 8 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Norwalk

Dec 8-27 Assorted sport coats and overcoats  
Dec 14-24 Leadsinger karaoke

### DELAWARE

#### Christiana

Dec 14-24 Pianos

### MARYLAND

#### Arundel Mills

Dec 7-17 Deluxe massage chairs

#### Beltsville

Dec 7-24 Gemstone and silver jewelry

#### Frederick

Dec 1-20 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Gaithersburg

Dec 15-24 Pianos

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Avon

Dec 7-26 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Danvers

Dec 14-Jan 2 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Dedham

Dec 7-26 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Everett

Dec 12-31 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### West Springfield

Dec 14-24 Leadsinger karaoke

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### Nashua

Dec 14-Jan 2 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

### NEW JERSEY

#### Bridgewater

Dec 1-10 Austrian crystal and gemstone jewelry  
Dec 21-Jan 9 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Clifton

Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke

#### East Hanover

Dec 7-24 Gemstone and silver jewelry

#### Edison

Dec 8-27 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Hazlet

Nov 30-Dec 10 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Ocean Township

Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Union

Dec 1-10 Austrian crystal and gemstone jewelry  
Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke  
Dec 21-Jan 9 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Wayne

Dec 4-23 Assorted sport coats and overcoats  
Dec 21-31 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Wharton

Dec 5-24 Assorted sport coats and overcoats  
Dec 21-31 Leadsinger karaoke

### NEW YORK

#### Brooklyn

Dec 14-24 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Melville

Dec 1-10 Austrian crystal and gemstone jewelry  
Dec 19-Jan 7 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Nanuet

Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke  
Dec 19-Jan 7 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### New Rochelle

Dec 15-Jan 3 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Port Chester

Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Queens

Dec 20-Jan 8 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Staten Island

Dec 15-Jan 3 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

#### Westbury

Dec 7-17 Deluxe massage chairs  
Dec 14-24 Austrian crystal and gemstone jewelry  
Dec 14-24 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Yonkers

Dec 4-23 Assorted sport coats and overcoats  
Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke  
Dec 14-17 Vietnamese hand-blown art glass

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Cranberry

Dec 5-17 Oakdale Décor assorted art and mirrors

#### King of Prussia

Dec 14-24 Austrian crystal and gemstone jewelry

### VIRGINIA

#### Chantilly

Dec 1-20 Assorted sport coats and overcoats  
Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke  
Dec 15-24 Pianos

#### Fairfax

Dec 1-10 Austrian crystal and gemstone jewelry  
Dec 8-17 Pianos  
Dec 18-31 Art Boom assorted art  
Dec 18-31 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Fredericksburg

Dec 7-17 Custom leather and upholstered furniture

#### Harrisonburg

Dec 15-24 Pianos

#### Leesburg

Dec 14-24 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Manassas

Dec 5-24 Assorted sport coats and overcoats  
Dec 15-24 Pianos  
Dec 21-31 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Newington

Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke  
Dec 14-24 Austrian crystal and gemstone jewelry  
Dec 14-24 Pianos

#### Norfolk

Dec 21-31 Leadsinger karaoke

#### Pentagon City

Dec 7-24 Gemstone and silver jewelry  
Dec 14-24 Leadsinger karaoke  
Dec 18-24 Pianos

#### Sterling

Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke  
Dec 15-24 Pianos

#### W Henrico

Dec 12-31 Assorted sport coats and overcoats

### VERMONT

#### Colchester

Dec 7-17 Leadsinger karaoke

## Costco warehouse hours

### Regular Hours

Monday-Friday 11am-8:30pm  
Saturday 9:30am-6pm  
Sunday 10am-6pm

### Exclusive Executive and Business Members' Hour

Monday-Friday 10am-11am

### costco.com

open 24 hours a day,  
7 days a week

## specialty services

### Services at all locations

ATM, Bakery, Deli/Produce, Food Court or Hot Dog Cart, Fresh Meat, 1-Hour Photo (APS, 35 mm and digital processing), Optical Dept., Pharmacy, Service Deli, Special Order Kiosk and Tire Center

Costco Auto Program: 1-800-800-9288; [www.costcoauto.com](http://www.costcoauto.com)  
Costco Travel: \* 1-877-849-2730

Member Services: \* 1-800-220-6000

\*Also available at costco.com

### CONNECTICUT

#### Brookfield

#### Enfield

#### Milford

#### Norwalk

#### Waterbury

### DELAWARE

#### Christiana

### MARYLAND

#### Arundel Mills

#### Beltsville

#### Frederick

#### Gaithersburg

#### Glen Burnie

#### White Marsh

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Avon

#### Danvers

#### Dedham

#### Everett

#### West Springfield

#### Waltham

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### Nashua

### NEW JERSEY

#### Brick Township

#### Bridgewater

#### Clifton

#### East Hanover

#### Edison

#### Hackensack

#### Hazlet

#### Mount Laurel

#### Ocean Township

#### Union

#### Wayne

#### Wharton

### NEW YORK

#### Brooklyn

#### Commack

#### Holbrook

#### Lawrence

#### Melville

#### Nanuet

#### Nesconset

#### New Rochelle

#### Port Chester

#### Queens

#### Staten Island

#### Westbury

#### Yonkers

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Cranberry

#### Harrisburg

#### King of Prussia

#### Lancaster

#### Montgomeryville

#### Robinson

### VERMONT

#### Colchester

### VIRGINIA

#### Chantilly

#### Chesterfield

#### Fairfax

#### Fredericksburg

#### Harrisonburg

#### Leesburg

#### Manassas

#### Newington

#### Newport News

#### Norfolk

#### Pentagon City

#### Sterling

#### W Henrico

#### Winchester

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WAREHOUSE ONLY





# THE ULTIMATE BOND: VOLUME 1 TO 4 NOW ON DVD!

From *Dr. No* (1962) to *Die Another Day* (2002), James Bond's adventures span 40 years of filmmaking with six lead actors, dozens of beautiful women and changes in filmmaking and the world in which they were produced. Each volume features 10 discs with never-seen-before footage, deleted scenes, interviews, documentaries, new menus, interactive film guides and new audio commentary by Sir Roger Moore.

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**Volumes 1 & 2 available November 7, Volumes 3 & 4 available December 12**

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